

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/17/2024 4:00:00 AM

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Comments: Hello,

I am asking that the management plan for old growth forests be amended as follows:

1. Eastern Deciduous forests should be recognized and managed specifically and distinctly from those in the West, as an important plan amendment. A one-size-fits-all approach to managing these distinct and endangered ecosystems, when Eastern and Western old growth forests have totally different relationships to human disturbance and fire from one another.
2. Mature growth must be allowed to grow to old growth status to adhere to President Biden's Executive Order 14072. Mature and old growth stands must be managed differently than younger age classes because of, and to investment in, their increased value ecologically and as infrastructure to combat Climate Change.
3. All current projects with mature and old growth stands must be paused until amendments can be made to their respective forest plans, to reflect the above.
4. The plan must reflect that Eastern old growth forests have not been significantly disturbed by human management for a long time (80 or more years). Such uneven aged natural forests have developed the greatest species diversity and span of tree ages that makes them more resistant to pests and diseases and more resilient to climate change. Management for Eastern old growth conditions should undermine this fact and eliminate those undisturbed conditions.
5. The economic cost of our destabilizing climate far outweigh the value of mature forest lumber. Forest management should prioritize developing forests into old growth conditions, to maximize their impact as one of our best (and cost effective) countermeasures.