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First name: Mary

Last name: McCutchan

Organization:

Title:

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National Old-Growth Amendment

DEIS Position

-I prefer Alternative 2, as it allows for more flexibility with vegetation management in old-growth and mature growth forests.

-Although commercial timber sales are allowed, they need to be only a byproduct of planned vegetation management, with a view toward long range healthy intact forest.

-This DEIS should recognize in print that conservation of Old Growth forests is an important way to mitigate effects of climate change

Since mature trees are future old-growth, they need clear management directions for protection. The final version of the Old Growth amendment should include a guideline list for designating mature sections that are situated to become old-growth.

-Not all old-growth forests need vegetation management. They can manage on their own, without human interference.

-Standard 2b should be removed. The Forest Service can and should clearly state that management decisions/activities must not cause old-growth forests to lose that status.

-Please include the studies that show older forests retain water and release it slowly, thereby supporting longer summer stream flows than found in young forests.

***On an experiential note, I have hiked on The Pacific Crest Trail in Oregon and had the shock of leaving a mature or Old Growth forest cover only to abruptly enter a clear-cut section. In some cases young sprouts of trees from (I presume) replanting had been culled and laid across the trail. It might make sense to employ selective thinning to create a transition area and thereby encourage new growth. Elk and other migrating species might thereby find more safety. An arborist could weigh in on that strategy.

Thank you for the chance to comment on this Plan