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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, I am writing to comment on the Flat Service's plan to protect old growth trees on public lands. I am writing to ask that the plan include the following:

1. Stop cutting old growth in the Daniel Boone National Forest.
2. Any fire or understory management should be the minimum necessary to support existing and future old-growth structure and function as appropriate for the community type.
3. Eliminate exceptions in the plan that would allow forest managers to convert old-growth to young forests, or to degrade or diminish the forests' old-growth condition in any way.
4. Recognize the importance of old-growth across all forest types, including disturbance-mediated forest communities like upland and fire-adapted oak forests and woodlands.
5. Ensure that the inventory and identification of old-growth is scientifically sound. Make the process of identifying old-growth forests transparent, consistent, and open to public input. Involve researchers, ecologists, and other outside experts in the identification and inventory process.
6. Require that mature forests be managed for future old-growth to ensure a variety of patch sizes, wide distribution, and good connectivity across the Daniel Boone National Forest.
7. Develop a plan for a network of future old-growth forests through an open, participatory, and scientifically sound process.