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Comments: I am writing to commend the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management on taking the initiative in this proposal to recognize the key ecological values of old growth and mature forest resources on our National Forests and BLM lands. The proposed plan amendment will help restore healthy forests, and the benefits that healthy forests offer for mitigating the damaging impacts of climate change, perpetuating thriving fish and wildlife populations, and providing sustainable recreational opportunities, throughout our magnificent National Forest System and National Conservation Lands. Hopefully over time implementation of this plan will clearly commit both agencies and their personnel to recognizing that restoring and sustaining the ecological integrity of our publicly-owned forests should be the primary goal of managing these lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.