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Comments: I am writing regarding the National Old Growth Amendment Draft Environmental Impact Statement released on June 21, 2024.

As a citizen of Kentucky, I advocate the following:

-Immediately stop cutting old-growth in the Daniel Boone National Forest. After centuries of logging in Kentucky, what little old growth and mature forest remains in the Daniel Boone should be preserved (ie. not logged for ANY reason) for public enjoyment and the environmental benefit (eg carbon sequestration, flood and erosion control [eg to prevent more devastating floods such as occurred in southeast KY in the past 2-3 years]).

-Eliminate exceptions in the plan which allow forest managers discretion to convert old-growth to young forests, or to otherwise degrade or diminish forests' old-growth condition.

-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.

-As proposed, it would still allow logging of old-growth, and it does nothing to protect mature forests and trees - the old-growth of the future - from logging.

-Prohibit sending old-growth trees to the timber mills. The economic incentive for logging old-growth must be removed. If the logged tree cannot be sold or exchanged, it will likely

prevent removal of old-growth trees.

-Create durable protections for mature trees and stands. If we do not protect mature trees, old-growth forests will not be regenerated.