Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/18/2024 4:00:00 AM

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Title:

Comments: Hello, I am commenting on NOGA. I urge the agency to adopt an Amendment that fully protects and retains ALL Old Growth (OG) including individual trees that qualify under OG measurement criteria. Also, mandate preservation of mature forests. The DEIS fails to do this, allowing commercial exploitation of OG and mature forests. There are far too many loopholes in the preferred alternative that allow for this. Active management within OG can impact functioning processes, such as heavy machinery compacting soils and destroying OG understory. There are no assurances that OG is retained under the preferred alternative. "Active management" in OG is an excuse to log OG for purposes of profit. By its very nature OG has achieved its condition because of lack of human management. Active management may be appropriate along the boundaries of OG forest where humans have degraded conditions and ecological function making OG susceptible to wildfires for example. OG needs to be accurately inventoried on all Forests, then fully retained. Likewise mature forests need to be protected. The current recommendation in NOGA is completely unsatisfactory and doesn't come close to achieving these goals, no matter how you present it superficially.