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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I signed several organized mass public comments regarding the old-growth forest management plan. From a sheer number perspective, those collective signatures with the repeating message will help from a democratic/critical mass standpoint. However, politics and governments also operate on/at the individual citizen level via candid conversations.

So, to start, thank you for taking the time, commitment, and willpower to read through each submitted response. I hope you'll be able to gain valuable insight and political fortitude to create management plans representing a holistic approach for long-term ecosystem integrity and resiliency while meeting your other mandates. As suggested by, I am sure, many fellow commenters, protecting old-growth forests from intentional timber harvesting is paramount for sustained forest health, self-organizing regeneration, and resiliency to disturbances. Beyond the items listed within the informative video created by the Forest Service (thank you), old-growth forests provide integral repositories for species biodiversity, orchestrate nutrient exchange via intact fungal networks, and are essentially nurseries for new seedlings/saplings. I will request that you please read/listen to Finding the Mother Tree by Suzanne Simard <https://suzannesimard.com/finding-the-mother-tree-book/> as she has thoroughly articulated the importance of old-growth species-diverse forests and the interconnectedness of living systems. If you do not have time, I have come to appreciate her message as old-growth species-diverse forests are akin to the starter/mother for sourdough or kombucha. All the "intelligence" (for the successful future generation of these products that sustain and nurture humans) is housed within a specially protected and nurtured grouping of essential elements. Old-growth forests are priceless for this function.

Lastly, I encourage and support you to please resist the pressures from short-term economic incentives at the expense and detriment of literally the entire interconnected world. I wholeheartedly believe that a core issue with our modern culture is a reluctance to say no; change is difficult, but individually and collectively, we can no longer continue business as usual. Climate instability is a symptom of environmental degradation and the destruction of the local water cycle (with implications for higher scalings), and the focus needs to be on ecosystem preservation and ecological restoration to help mitigate and dampen the projected extremes (environmental and social). Numerous videos, readily available online, can demonstrate the positive consequences of regenerative land stewardship. Please consider incorporating these management practices and mindsets into the currently proposed policies.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration.

Sincerely, MBE