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Comments: I strongly support protecting Old Growth and Mature forests by stopping all commercial cuts on all trees over one hundred years old. Mature and Old Growth trees are more resilient to wildfires and help mitigate the climate by capturing carbon in the most beautiful and efficient ways. These forests make life possible on Earth for humans and a wide and diverse number of other species including mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, insects, arthropods, macro and micro soil organisms. Forests are essential for clean water, air and a livable climate.

DEIS alternative 2 requires modification and clarification to accomplish protecting old growth trees from commercial logging. Commercial logging is not a protective or "proactive stewardship" strategy. I urge the Forest Service to reinstate Standard 1 from the Notice of Intent, which established that management activities "must not degrade or impair" old growth forests. The Forest Service should clearly state that management activities within old-growth forests must not cause the forests to lose old-growth status. I urge protection for old growth trees - more than 100 years located outside of old growth forests to be preserved for cultural, historical and ecological value they add to the younger forests.

In the section on water quality , I request that you add that older forests retain water and release it slowly, providing longer summer stream flows than found in younger forests.

I hope you will strengthen the final NOGA policy and ensure that all old-growth trees and mature trees stay in the forest and are not sent to the mill or sold.

sincere thanks for your considerations,

Kathleen Miller RN, LMT