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Public Comment Processing

U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Forest Service

Re: Opposition to Proposed National Old-Growth Forest Amendment and Executive Order 14072:

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am expressing my opposition to the proposed 'National Old-Growth Forest Amendment.' While I recognize the importance of conserving old-growth forests, I am deeply concerned that this Amendment bypasses the 2012 Forest Planning Rule, consolidating forest management at the national level and stripping away vital local guidance and resiliency. Furthermore, this Amendment will reduce the adaptability and response of rural communities like mine to adjust to climate change and threats to forest health (wildfire, invasive plants, pathogens, etc.).

This amendment insidiously turns "old growth," generally a widely accepted and required condition for managing USFS lands, into a political "Trojan horse," and sets a precedence for future administrations to undermine community-based forest management efforts built on years of dialogue, cooperation, and trust.

I urge the US Forest Service and the Biden Administration to stop the Proposed National Old-Growth Forest Amendment immediately.

Sincerely,

Blair Bishop