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Comments: To whom it may concern:

I'm an upland hunter who appreciates the importance of healthy forest habitat and I support the proposed action (Alternative 2) the U.S. Forest Service developed in its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Old forests are just one of several critical successional stages in healthy ecosystems. To prevent disproportionate emphasis on old growth forests and to avoid the resulting inability to optimize wildlife habitat, carbon stewardship, resilience and biodiversity, the USFS should include the following in any eventual action.

Actively manage forests. Extreme wildfire risk, imbalanced carbon cycles, poor fish and wildlife habitat, and impaired ecosystem functions plague various units of the National Forest System. The USFS should use commercially valuable wood to fund monitoring and restoration projects.

Use locally-managed and flexible management practices. A laudable policy of sustaining old growth must not force universal restrictions on local situations where actions are necessary. Local decisions consistent with the broader national objective to sustain healthy and diverse forests must drive action.

Speed up and scale up forest restoration and reduce litigation. As a rule, ecology moves slowly. Yet, ecological problems are outpacing restoration programs. New policies that seeks to solve today's problems long after tomorrow's problems have arrived are useless. We must execute more projects, faster, each year.

Recognize the importance of all successional forest stages. The USFS must embrace a forest-wide policy of restoration that creates the diversity to sustain forests overall and to support wildlife and water objectives.

Thank you.