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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed amendments to protect old-growth forests. While the effort to preserve these vital ecosystems is commendable, I believe the current draft of the amendments falls short of what is needed to ensure lasting protection for both old-growth and mature forests.

Forests like the Superior National Forest, with its 100,000 acres of old-growth and 460,000 acres of mature forest, are invaluable. They support diverse wildlife, help combat climate change, and play a critical role in maintaining our environment. Without stronger protections, we risk losing these irreplaceable natural treasures.

Specifically, I urge the Forest Service to:

Expand protections to include not just old-growth, but also mature forests, which are essential for long-term ecosystem health. Limit exceptions for logging, particularly in areas where older trees provide significant environmental benefits. Safeguard at-risk forest areas from activities that could degrade their integrity. Prioritize the preservation of fire-resistant older trees, which are critical to maintaining forest resilience in the face of climate change. Our forests are an irreplaceable resource, and the decisions made now will have a lasting impact on future generations. I respectfully urge you to strengthen the proposed amendments to better reflect the importance of protecting both old-growth and mature forests.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I appreciate your commitment to conserving our national forests.

Sincerely,

Benjamin M. Forbes