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Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

I am asking the USFS to dramatically bolster the final record of decision to make certain there are meaningful protections for our nation's Old Growth trees. And to not only do that, but additionally create a foundation for increasing the profusion and distribution of Old Growth for current and future generations of Americans.

The currently proposed policies give too much latitude to forest managers allowing for the most minimal preservation of Old Growth forests and provides ways to circumvent best scientific practices leading to continual logging and vastly increases the likelihood of increased levels of Old Growth logging.

Critical Points for Success in Achieving Old Growth Protection Which the Final NOGA Must Include are as Follows:

1. End exceptions and loopholes and end all logging of Old Growth trees in our National Forests.
2. Additionally, stop sending Old Growth timber to lumber mills. This only further incentivizes the continual harvest of Old Growth.
3. Protect Old Growth stands as a means of addressing resilience to wildfires and as a measure against the effects of climate change related flooding and drought.
4. To facilitate the existence of future Old Growth, mature forests and trees must also adequately be protected now from commercial logging.
5. Adoption of a definition of Old Growth that recognizes the absolute importance of Old Growth's inherent rich degree of biodiversity rather than solely relying on tree diameter size.

Thank you for allowing me to share my comments.

Respectfully,

Karen Walmsley