

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/19/2024 2:58:17 AM

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Comments: I live in N.W. Montana, in the midst of the Kootenai National Forest, where all but about 10% of the old growth forest has been logged. Therefore, I was heartened to learn about our President's Directive to the Forest Service to prioritize saving what is left. However, when I looked into the amendment that is supposed to do that, I see that the Forest Service's Preferred Alternative basically allows the agency to continue to do whatever it wants in old growth to the point where it no longer meets the definition of old growth. The Alternative is vague and suggestive where it should be bold and prescriptive; it is riddled with exceptions and heavy on "proactive management" when all that is needed to protect old growth is to LEAVE IT ALONE.

I urge the Forest Service to abandon Alternative #2 and to craft an alternative that actually protects the remainder of our old growth forests. Alternative #3 is a good starting point.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this vital issue.