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Comments: USFS:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan.

As a hiker, birder and hunter who is regularly use USFS land, I support the proposed action (Alternative 2) in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). This encourages stewardship which leads to healthy and well-balanced ecosystems and habitats for wildlife, and I urge the USFS to stand by its choice to move in this direction even against simplistic and deceptive narratives opposing restoration.

Old forests are important and beautiful, but human suppression of fire has removed nature's way of providing successional diversity. Active forest management is needed to restore the balance of young, middle aged and old forests. I have seen personally the difference in wildlife that the various stages of forest growth support and it is clear that supporting the broadest range of bird and other wildlife species depends on active management.

It is understandable that some might naively believe that a "leave it alone" approach as being "most natural." However, this only works if it is accompanied by also leaving fires burn, which is not possible in today's world.

The USFS has a reputation for managing our forests based on the best science available at the time and I encourage you to implement Alternative 2.

Regards,

Tom Mitoraj