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Comments: Hello,

I am a hunter, and I believe in the importance of healthy forest habitat. I support Alternative 2 which was developed by the Forest Service in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This plan directs the USFS toward stewardship and I strongly urge the USFS to stick with this plan. I understand there is opposition, but I'm not convinced it's based on a sound environmental management strategy.

The old forests are one of many critical successional stages in a healthy ecosystem. Too much old growth could potentially frustrate the USFS's ability to promote wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

Please consider that active forest management is critical to restoration and highly beneficial to overall forest policy. Uncharacteristic wildfires, poor fish and wildlife habitat, and impaired ecosystem functions contribute to the degradation of many of our National Forest units. Monitoring and taking action to correct these issues is essential. Restoration projects are not inexpensive. Many projects involve reducing woody material of little to no commercial value. However, commercially valuable wood can help fund restoration

Exercising flexibility in management practices, along with local decision-making and a nationally critical objective of sustaining old growth must not become the driving force. Local decisions consistent with a national objective must drive any action.

I would urge the USFS to increase both the pace and scale of forest restoration while simultaneously reducing litigation. New policy for restoring forests may require new procedures to carry out projects faster each year.

I further urge the USFS to recognize the importance of other forest types than just old growth. Please embrace a forest-wide policy of restoration that creates the diversity to support wildlife, support water objectives, and to sustain our forests overall.

I appreciate the USFS listening to hunters and other conservation groups. Hopefully, the USFS will adapt a science-based approach that relies on local knowledge and experience from people who work and use our national forests for recreational purposes. I look forward to future policies using the same stewardship concept across all types of habitats in our National Forest System.