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Comments: The Pinchot Institute for Conservation (Pinchot Institute) supports the US Forest Service initiative to enhance policy and guidance for the conservation of old growth across national forests.

The Pinchot Institute is an inclusive, non-partisan 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and works in collaboration with partners in the public and private sectors to ensure, in the words of Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the US Forest Service, "...the greatest good, for the greatest number, in the long run." The Pinchot Institute works with partners to transform public policy and markets into better instruments of conservation, through a perspective informed through scientific research, wide-ranging consultation, and by convening dialogues to foster the understanding necessary for shared progress for climate-informed forestry.

The Pinchot Institute commends the convening of diverse groups of stakeholders and informed citizens and seeking the input of scientists, tribal and state and local governments, conservation organizations and recreational users of the national forests. The inventory of current old growth forests prepared by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, followed by the preparation of The Mature and Old Growth Threat Analysis, were essential precursors to the listening sessions conducted in many regional forest areas.

We believe the proposed national old growth forest plan amendment to be the product of a considered and democratic approach to this very important policy-making initiative, and we look forward to reviewing the comments submitted in response to the proposal.