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Amendments to Land Management Plans to Address

Old-growth forests Across the National Forest System

DRAFT Environmental Impact Statement. (DEIS)

Dear Director,

Please consider these comments from a resident of R08 Southern region

where I have enjoyed recreation in the Daniael Boone National Forest

as well as going north to the Hoosier National Forest and others.

I welcome President Biden's April 22, 2022, Executive Order 14072,

Strengthening the Nation's Forests, Communities, and Local Economies.

I urge you to :

\* Increase the restrictions on ANY forest timber harvesting in the southern and eastern regions for the future until these regions have a substantial increase in percentage of old growth acreage.

The Draft DEIS recites the many ecosystem benefits of old growth and mature first areas but these benefits have been worn thin by excessive timber harvesting, insect predation and other impacts to the Daniel Boone NF and other forests in the southern region.

Clearly the Southern region forests have been plundered to the degree that the ecosystem benefits well described in the Draft DEIS are impaired to a marked degree.

Rather than letting regional directors define areas of old-growth and potential old growth to be granted restrictions, in the Southern Region, timber sales should be shut down and entire areas ruled protected. This is the drastic action required to respond to the executive order, Stop the loss of old growth in the Southern region, and build back the ecosystem benefits.

My comments therefore are simply, define large target areas in the southern region to preserve and restore old growth areas, and stop the destructive management practices.

Residents of the Southern and Eastern regions that have benefitted from constant timber sales now must retreat and allow the forest to be restored with time so that the same social benefits that western and Pacific Northwest regions enjoy can once again appear here.

/S/Clarence H Hixson