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Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to submit some concern with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Presidential order tasked the agency with preparing an inventory of both old-growth and mature forests and analyzing the various threats to these ecosystems. However, the threat analysis conducted internally by the US Forest Service (USFS) downplays the risks posed by commercial logging and clear-cutting, raising concerns about the impartiality of the assessment, given the agency's role in managing forests for such activities. Not only does this analysis understate the harm inflicted by their management practices on the forests held in public trust, but it also continues to exclude the entire eastern half of the nation from proper consideration. Here it is important to acknowledge that "mature forests" include reforested area that have reached ecological maturity, i.e. they have acquired a level of ecosystem stability and resilience that other areas are lacking and that would be destroyed through large-scale logging activities.

To properly implement the presidential order, the USFS should (a) conduct a more complete inventory of old-growth and mature forests, including east of the Mississippi river, (b) commission and independent threat analysis, utilizing the best available scientific research, and (c) abandon the one-sided and unfounded notion that commercial logging and clear-cutting are forms of 'ecological forest management' promote preservation of old-growth ecosystems.