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Subject: Old Growth Forest Amendment

Dear Director:

As you know, the long-awaited Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the National Old Growth Forest Amendment (known as NOGA) was released by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and published in the Federal Register on June 21 of this year. This is a result of President Biden's Executive Order 14072 directing the Department of Agriculture to develop policies to mitigate climate change and to instill in place policies to address threats to mature and old-growth forests on Federal lands.

I will begin with the following statement from a prominent forest scientist: "Mature and old-growth forests (MOG) of the conterminous United States collectively support exceptional levels of biodiversity but have declined substantially from logging and development. National-scale proposals to protect 30 and 50% of all lands and waters are useful in assessing MOG conservation targets given the precarious status of these forests."

DellaSala, Dominick A

I have lived in Montana for 50 years, during which time I have developed an intimate connection with with public lands, both in the capacity as a recreationist and as a professional outfitter. I spent 2 years working on USFS forest thinning projects.

I am deeply disappointed with the direction of USFS, which seems to be stuck decades in the past in regard to its view of forest management. We must stop viewing our National Forests as tree farms - as places to provide cheap, low cost, taxpayer subsidized logs for private businesses. We must instead rely on low latitude, private tree farms to supply wood products, which I believe is entirely possible. In the case where private timberland

exists in more northerly latitudes, USFS lands must be conserved so that they serve as ecological buffers to counter private logging and habitat loss.

Our planet is in both a climate change crisis and an extinction crisis. The USFS can be - MUST BE - an active agent in sharply reversing these trends. Research is consistently demonstrating that current USFS policy is failing to come close to adequately addressing these crises. Instead USFS continues to focus on "getting out the cut", and pandering to the demands of private industry.

My vision for USFS is:

1. to end all logging in old growth forests
2. allow mature forests to evolve to old growth, thus increasing our country's old growth acreage
3. end the facade of disguising old growth logging as "forest health projects"
4. recognize - and accept - that the USFS has an overwhelming responsibility to manage all its lands with carbon sequestration, ecosystem diversity, and wildlife habitat as primary goals.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

Glenn Monahan