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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Director, Ecosystem Management Coordination

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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.

"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

GWA is asking the USFS to move to a new paradigm, one on a larger scale, to incorporate the value of our forests, to help encapsulate carbon as an answer to a warming world. We need to let our forest be a forest. Let them sequester carbon, provide biodiversity, and let them maintain their forest integrity.

I support the position that stewardship in Old Growth shall not result in timber harvest.

Shall must be in the document to protect Old Growth.

I have commented on timber projects in the Custer gallatin national Forest in the past few years and will reference two, Kirk Hill and North Bridgers.

I advocated for the protecting Old Growth and in my comments I included photo documenting. Unfortunately, my comments did not stop the timber harvest that included Old Growth.

Please accept my comments. If you would like the photo documentation please let me know.

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