Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/20/2024 4:00:00 AM First name: Jerry Last name: DiMarco Organization: Title:

Comments: The proposed Old-Growth Forest Amendment appears to be well thought out and consistent with past knowledge and experience, and looking ahead to the threat of climate change. My primary concerns are about proactive stewardship, the Wildland Urban Interface and the use of Indigenous practices.

I fully support the focus on ecological integrity. It is my hope that proactive stewardship is not a permanent feature, but one that decreases over time, and natural succession is eventually allowed to take over to maintain desired conditions.

Since fuels reduction efforts in the WUI may conflict with the goal of ecological integrity, and because development in the WUI is not sustainable, I would like to see more advocacy on the part of the Forest Service to prevent development in WUI areas, and to remove development from lands in the WUI when opportunities occur. Similarly, I hope the Forest Service continues to acquire lands, especially inholdings, needed to enhance the integrity of forest and associated ecosystems.

It is my hope that Indigenous practices are limited to those that contribute to the integrity of the ecosystem where they are applied. I would not like to see ecosystem rules bent to accommodate Indigenous uses.

Thank you for your efforts.