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First name: Joel

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: United States Forest Service

Re: US Forest Service's National Old Growth Amendment - 9/20/24

Thank you for the opportunity to make public comment on the proposed United States Forest Service's National Old Growth Amendment.

I feel that we already have adequate old growth forest acres on our federal lands that are managed by the United States Forest. It is my feeling that the biggest risk to our federal lands and our old growth forests are catastrophic wildfires, insect infestations and disease. I feel that this proposed Old Growth Amendment will just promote additional bureaucracy, and regulations on the forest management of our federal lands, by the USFS. I feel that we need forest management policies that accelerate forest timber harvesting, forest thinning and other forest management activities. Strong and active forest management will protect the old growth we have and promote healthy stand of successional mature forests for the future. Actively and well managed forests, will continue to provide, clean water, healthy wildlife and fisheries habitat, forest fire protection, carbon sequestration, meet society's demands for forest products and recreation, and community economic stability.

We do not need additional bureaucracy, which will not save our forests! Instead, we need to promote and implement proactive good forest management and forest stewardship on our public lands. Give professional forest managers the power to do their job and manage, protect and promote healthy public forests.

All this amendment for old growth will do in my opinion is add more red tape and possible legal litigation to the management of our federal forests. Individual national forests and geographic locations, with federal forests, should focus on implementing the Wildfire Crisis Strategy through their current existing forest plans to achieve the desired forest conditions on these landscapes. These forest plans should be allowed to be implemented and followed by the USFS.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this very forest management issue with our federal forests.

Sincerely,

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