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Comments: CA's NW National Forests have been ravaged by wind-driven mega-fires of unprecedented intensity. These fires and logging from the 1950s to the 1990s have left little ancient forest in places like NW CA's Mendocino NF. To address this crisis, some of the alternatives in the DEIS includes protections for trees of 150+ years of age.

While that is a good start, I believe there is room for improvement. For example, I urge the FS to implement a very strict prohibition against the cutting of old-growth trees younger than 150 years of age and be required to protect the best remaining mature trees that will become the next generations of ancient forest. This includes trees 80+ years old.

The DEIS includes other elements that I strongly support and we urge the FS to retain them in the Final EIS of the NWFP, including:

Promoting the restoration of old-growth forest ecosystems where ecologically appropriate in young forests using proven ecological forestry techniques. In other words, we can use "eco-forestry" (thinning and pruning of young trees) to restore future old-growth in our NW NFs over time.

Conducting restoration and fire resilience enhancements on between 790,000 to 964,000 acres of CA's dry NFs in the first 15 years after the NWFP is approved. The treatments encouraged by the NWFP include using all the appropriate tools that I have long supported along with Tribes, depending upon local conditions and needs.

Move beyond mere consultation with Tribes and include specific, actionable strategies to incorporate indigenous knowledge in decision making and provide opportunities to expand co-stewardship with Tribes. Tribes were helping to maintain the health of what are now NW CA's NFs for millennia and their knowledge and assistance is essential to our collective restoration efforts.

Thank you for your consideration.