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Comments: I am writing with a comment on the use of the Experimental Forest and the difficulty of conducting research in what has historically been one of the most important tropical forest research areas in the world. I applaud the decision to "Revise plan components to facilitate research implementation focusing on:

- o Tropical ecosystem dynamics at watershed and landscape scales,
- o Assessing effects of climate and land use change,
- o Working lands: where human and ecological systems interact. "

I also applaud the desire to "Integrate research needs and related standards and guidelines into the management direction for the Wilderness." Of late it has become very difficult to continue research in this region, despite federal funding to do this research, because of confusion over permitting and difficulty assessing wilderness boundaries. We need to protect this forest, but the role this forest plays in informing our understanding of tropical ecosystems needs to be considered as well. What we learn in this forest will help us understand, and protect, tropical forests everywhere. Please allow us to continue, and even ramp up, the decades of research that have played such a vital role in our understanding of tropical forest watersheds.