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The purposed new Forest Service Rule incorporates all aspects of social and economic issues that have emerged from the dust cloud of when the 1982 Forest Service Rule was laid down. These up-to-date corrections are what are needed for the ever changing climate and communities in which we live, and that they will help sustain our forests and their ecological services well into the future.

But it seems though that there is too much icing on the cake so to speak. When this rule was first constructed, it took into consideration all the stake holders and the general public's wants and needs through public hearings, and then laid out the frame work for which we have. I am skeptical though as to how this new rule is going to please everyone the way that it sounds upon first reading. Are the economics going to be sustainable into the future when loggers are struggling now to make ends meet? With a new sustainability and science based approach at management, it sounds like ecological conservation is at the fore front. Despite relying on science to secure profitable timber harvests, I feel that the timber industry will get pinched. In Washington St., our fisheries are managed in a way that makes everyone happy. Nobody wants to give up fishing temporally or spatially; and being a native to the Northwest, I have witnessed a drastic reduction in our fish stocks. After reading the new proposal, I feel that the same thing will happen to our forests.

With this proposal, our regional managers will be given more responsibility for species management within their jurisdiction. Like some commentators, I too like the thought that this new rule acts much like a broad filter leaving the needs of the individual forests to the regional managers so that they can apply local knowledge through a finer filter. This feed forward approach has the capability to maximize sustainability on all levels, but as past resource management cases have shown us, this could keep us at status quo, and this is where much of my concern lies. I would like to see more detail in the rule regarding managing regional managers to make sure that they are 100% in compliance within the proposals policy domain. This would allow for the best forest practices per region by allowing the use of local science to help make plans, but also at the same time provide a system of checks.

I feel that this proposal has the hearts and minds of all Americans at its chore, and provides a strong base that can be built upon and frequently updated. Its Aldo Leopoldian voice gives hope for a sustainable future, and respect to forests for they offer more than just lumber and clean water.