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Comments

To the Department of Agriculture:

To begin with, I applaud you for taking into consideration the entire ecosystem when considering land and resource management. Also I agree that it is important to consider the use of ecosystem services by humans when constructing a management plan. I believe that humans are an integral part of the Forest ecosystem because we consume so many resources from it. As the population continues to rise, we do need to consider how to maintain the life styles that the people of the United States are used to in regards to social and economic stability and we need to consider the next generation. I think that it is incredibly important to manage forests in a manner that will be beneficial in securing resources that humans need in this generation and future generations and protecting the biological diversity that exists within the forest.

I appreciate the three-part model of assessing, developing/revising/amending and monitoring. Forest growth, especially in the midst of a changing climate, is dynamic and rapid, and allowing for the review, and re-review of the condition of the forest flora and fauna and resources is imperative in keeping a healthy ecosystem.

I am in support of your firm belief that the policy of forest management should be based on science and public opinion. It is important to me that policies be made on science-derived facts. I think that the assessment part of the Proposed Planning Rule might be the most important, because that is a non-biased determination of where money should be allocated to follow up with forest developments. Public opinion is also vital to this planning rule because ecosystem services belong to all humans. These services do not only include the resources we obtain from logging and clean water, but also for the natural beauty we are able to witness in a conserved forest.

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