



COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: September 17, 2024

ITEM TITLE, PRESENTER: Consideration and Approval of Comment Letter on USFS DEIS on Old-Growth Forest Management, Nick Sandberg, Public Lands Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION: Approve Letter

SUMMARY

The U.S. Forest Service has issued a draft EIS detailing guidance for the management of old-growth forests. This guidance, when finalized, would amend nearly all of the land management plans for national forests nation-wide. The finalized policy would guide the future development of Adaptive Management Strategies specific to individual forests or forest regions. Utah's PLPCO has reviewed the DEIS and developed a comment letter which they have shared with the counties. San Juan County concurs with PLPCO's comments and incorporates them by reference in the County's comments. Two of the main concerns brought out in PLPCO's comments and shared by the County are the need for coordination of Forest plans with County plans and the concern that final old-growth management not over-ride the need nor hinder the application of active forest management needed to ensure healthy forests. The two Forest Districts in the county appear to have some old-growth stands as shown on the attached map. The deadline for submitting comments is September 20, 2024.

HISTORY/PAST ACTION

PLPCO has been a Cooperating Agency representing Utah's counties in the development of this EIS.

FISCAL IMPACT

None at present.