

September 20, 2024

Dear Chief Moore,

Please accept these comments from a concerned citizen and a Pacific Northwest resident on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed amendment to National Forest plans.

The proposal fails to protect old-growth trees and forests: it allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and allows agency staff to manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of “proactive stewardship” goals.

The proposal fails to protect mature forests and trees – future old growth: it does not protect them from the threat of commercial logging.

To do the job of protecting our mature forests and old-growth trees, the final amended plan must

- **End the cutting of old-growth trees** in all national forests and all forest types.
- **End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees.** Even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut for public safety, that tree should be left in the forest.
- **Recognize the important role that old growth plays** in fighting climate change, not just how they are threatened by climate change.
- **Protect mature forests and trees from logging.**

The possibility of a commercial timber sale should never be the driving factor for making decisions in old-growth forests, and commercial cutting of old-growth trees should not be allowed. Any active management should help mature forests develop into old-growth, protected forests, and passive management should also be used to meet these goals.

As you are well aware, mature and old-growth trees and forests protect our climate by absorbing and storing carbon. They boost resilience to fire, help regulate temperatures, filter drinking water and shelter wildlife. Logging these trees deprives us of the benefits of our largest, oldest trees, to say nothing of the cultural and psychological benefits.

Please take this opportunity to protect our oldest trees and forests now. Please do not ignore the objectives of this amendment and the voices of hundreds of thousands of public commenters' voices.

Sincerely,
Susan Kostick
Edmonds, Washington