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Comments: I encourage the Forest Service to consider the following when updating the NW Forest Plan:

-- Retain important safeguards to public participation and to assure transparency in agency planning. This includes the NEPA process and the Survey and Manage program to understand and protect biodiversity.

-- Identify mature and old-growth forests now on matrix lands, and change the designation to late-successional reserves (LSR).

-- Further identify and protect lands that assure connectivity between LSRs and other areas of protected forests.

-- Include carbon storage as an objective of LSR management.

A methodology for identifying lands for conservation is presented in the attached paper recently published in the journal Forest Ecology and Management, entitled "Prioritizing new conservation areas during forest plan updates."

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.