

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/2/2025 6:11:57 PM

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Comments: Old-growth forests must continue to be protected under the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) through several key mechanisms:

1.Late-Successional Reserves (LSRs) - The NWFP designates large areas of federal land as LSRs, where logging and other disturbances are restricted to maintain and enhance old-growth habitat.

2.Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) - This strategy helps protect riparian areas, which are often home to significant old-growth forests, by maintaining water quality and habitat connectivity.

3.Survey and Manage Program - This program requires land managers to assess the presence of rare or old-growth-dependent species before allowing activities that could harm their habitat.

4.Adaptive Management Areas (AMAs) - While these areas allow for some experimentation with forest management, they are still guided by conservation goals that can help protect old growth.

5.Riparian Reserves - Protect buffer zones along streams and rivers limit logging and other disturbances, indirectly protecting nearby old-growth stands.

6.Restrictions on Clearcutting - Continue to reduce clearcutting on federal lands, shifting towards ecological forestry practices that preserve older stands.