

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/24/2023 5:24:25 PM

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Comments: Any revision of the Northwest Forest Plan must prioritize preservation over logging or other resource uses. Now that remaining stands of old growth have gotten some recent protection, it's critical that logging be stopped in mature stands as well, whether they are in Late Successional Reserves or Matrix lands. The importance of older forests for carbon storage, water quality, wildlife habitat, fire prevention, and recreation far outweigh any benefits from timber production. Logging operations should be reduced to ecological thinning to promote a return to natural succession and eventual old-growth forest status. Private lands can produce enough lumber; public lands must serve a higher purpose.

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