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Comments: I am a forest user. I hike and I camp. It scares me when I am on a hike and see all the downed timber, just waiting for a spark that will destroy the whole forest. On the other hand, I hate the clearcuts, which lead to erosion and destroy wildlife habitat. We need good amendments to the NW Forest Plan.

We have to manage our resources better. We need the forests, both for climate change mitigation and for our mental and physical health. And we also need to use controlled fires. We need to be proactive. We need Native Americans as co-managers of forests, so their knowledge can protect both the trees and us.

Amendments to the plan must protect the remaining old-growth forests and trees outside of reserves and work to grow, expand, and connect these vital ecosystems.

Amendments should bolster efforts to reintroduce beneficial fire to dry forest ecosystems while prohibiting "fuels treatments" that aren't grounded in the current and growing understanding of fire and its role in the variety of forest types across the Northwest Forest Plan area.

Amendments must recognize the incredible carbon capture and storage potential of northwest forests - especially forests of the western cascade and coastal ranges of Washington and Oregon.

Amendments to the plan must recognize the social and economic changes that have occurred in the 30 years since the plan's creation and strive to build a workforce based on restoration and reciprocity.

Please protect these important resources that help all of us have better lives. Be creative, be courageous. Be true stewards of the land.