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Comments: As you know, the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) has largely been a success: slowing the decline of several endangered species, protecting large swaths of old-growth forests, and improving watershed conditions.

But as you also know, climate change is creating new threats to forest health by increasing impacts from insects, disease, and historically large and severe wildfires. These pressures, along with increased scientific understanding and information gleaned from the NFPs monitoring protocols, underscore the need for targeted updates to the plan to maintain healthy, resilient forests.

I'm writing to implore you to take a targeted, science-based, and climate change-informed approach to amending the NFP. Specifically, the amendment should focus on:

Defining goals for sustaining ecological integrity of these national forests, as well as strategies for their achievement that are informed by an understanding of the ongoing and anticipated effects of climate change.

Improving landscape resilience to wildfire by restoring forest health where it is impaired and returning ecosystem-appropriate fire to the landscape.

Conserving existing old-growth forests and recruiting future generations of old-growth forests.

Incorporating Indigenous knowledge to help inform the agency's management goals and strategies to further the agency's general trust responsibilities.

Supporting the sustainability of communities located near these national forests by providing an array of sustainable recreational opportunities and forest products.

Thank you for your consideration.