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Comments: I am a resident of the Pacific Northwest, and a member of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness. I recreate on our public lands, volunteer to protect them, and raised my children to value and care for their forests. Protecting our remaining old growth forests, which are a mere fraction of what we have already lost, is a critical first step towards insuring a better future for our children, their planet, and the biological diversity which makes this planet habitable. But the Old Growth Forest Plan does not go far enough. We must also protect all remaining mature forests and trees, which have the potential to become Old and to provide carbon sequestration to mitigate our warming climate, protect our watersheds, and provide critical habitat for endangered species. We have no time to lose and no mature trees to spare in this effort, which is our moral imperative. Not all forests can be treated the same way, and robust science which takes this into account must be behind an effective review process and plan.

Our public lands can be managed effectively without selling our oldest and most mature trees. They are not replaceable and future generations will live with the choices we make today.

Please consider a moratorium on logging projects in mature and old growth forests until this plan amendment can be implemented.