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Comments: The Northwest Forest Plan(NWFP) has been successful in managing federal forests in the Pacific Northwest for a plethora of terrestrial and aquatic species, notably those associated with old-growth and other mature forests, and with healthy aquatic systems. I worked for many years managing a program that monitored the effectiveness of the NWFP in conserving the marbled murrelet, a rare seabird associated with old forests near the Pacific coast. Through this work I became familiar with the plan, and how it deals with the legacy of decades of overcutting old-growth and mature forests without an overarching plan for managing those forests.

To continue the progress and success of the NWFP, I urge you to:

1. Protect all remaining mature and old-growth trees from logging. There may be a future time when regrowth of mature forests is sufficient to accommodate limited harvest of second-growth mature forests, but that time is not here, yet. In the meantime, please limit logging to those regrowth areas (notably in the "matrix" lands) which are designated in the NWFP to be managed for silviculture and timber production.
2. Promote the recruitment of more mature and old-growth trees over time, and in a manner that provides larger blocks of such forest for species such as the marbled murrelet, which have been shown to be associated with larger forest patches with less fragmentation and edges.
3. Avoid to the maximum extent practicable salvage logging within areas designated by the NWFP for old forest development (LSRs etc.), as these burned forests provide important habitat for many species, and salvage logging often incurs heavy terrestrial and aquatic impacts due to ground disturbance. While in limited situations some salvage logging in reserves may be justifiable, this should be allowed only on a site-specific, case by case basis.
4. Increase the beneficial use of fire to restore forests and maintain their health, especially in more remote regions.
5. Where possible, work with Tribes in the planning and execution of restoration efforts, to promote Indigenous Ecological Knowledge and culturally-important resources within the NWFP area.
6. Work with Tribes and communities to build restoration workforce capacity in the regions most affected by the NWFP.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public input.