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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is William Byrd and I'm really glad to hear that the U.S. Forest Service is planning to update the Northwest Forest Plan. It's one of the most important forest management policies in the United States, and it's great to see that they're taking steps to improve it. The forests covered by the plan are super important for both people and wildlife in the region. They provide clean air and water, and they're a big part of the local economy. So it's really important that any changes to the plan take into account the needs of both people and the environment.

One thing that I think is really important is protecting the old-growth forests. These forests are home to a lot of different species, like the northern spotted owl and salmon, and they're culturally important to many different communities. Unfortunately, these forests are becoming more and more rare, and they're facing a lot of threats from climate change. So it's really important that the new plan does everything it can to protect them.

Another thing that I think is really important is dealing with the wildfires. Since the Northwest Forest Plan was first developed, wildfires have become a lot more common and a lot more severe. So it's really important that the new plan takes this into account and comes up with some new strategies for dealing with them. One idea that I think could be really helpful is incorporating Indigenous cultural burning practices.

Lastly, I think it's really important that the new plan takes into account the local economy. The forests are a big part of the regional economy, and they're really important for things like tourism and recreation. So it's really important that any changes to the plan don't hurt the local economy too much.

I would like for the board to consider adopting Option 3 which provides the most protection.