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Comments: The amendments to the Northwest Forest Plan should consider, first and foremost, ecology. Ecology over economy. Preserving biodiversity, native species, and endangered species amidst climate change and threatened habitat must be the priority.

With climate change worsening, the carbon sequestration provided by old-growth and mature trees is crucial. Keep those trees in the ground!

Lean on the indigenous people who have been living closely with the forests for far longer than settlers have. Ecology should be the guiding principle, but indigenous practices should be incorporated as often as appropriate.

With increasing fire frequency and severity, close management of forests to keep them healthy and resilient is key. Protect homes and rural communities, but allow fire to fulfill its natural role in the forests as it had for centuries before settlers moved to the northwest. Reintroduce fire back into ecosystems where it has been suppressed recently.

The world needs timber products, and there is a need to cut trees in the name of forest and fire ecology. Rural communities and their economies and livelihoods are very important. There is a future for such communities that is not dependent on resource extraction, and that should be prioritized.

It should also be considered that there are many forest lands in the northwest that are privately managed for timber, providing some of that economic need. On public land, the public good should be considered, including recreation and enjoyment. While mature trees may represent a dollar value to the timber industry, the tree's value goes far beyond money. For the species who rely on its role within their ecosystem, for the humans who can enjoy its beauty and wonder, and for the miracle that is a tree which has thrived in a forest for many decades. Intrinsic value over monetary value!