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Comments: NWFP Federal Advisory Committee

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I thank the members of the Federal Advisory Committee for work they are doing to update the Northwest Forest Plan.

At its inception, the NWFP was a compromise that failed to go far enough to protect the region's old-growth forests, sensitive wildlife species, and roadless areas.

The fact that in the midst of a changing climate healthy 400-year old trees can still be logged is scandalous. I feel that the time has come to amend the plan in order to protect extant old-growth and mature forest throughout federal lands in the Pacific Northwest, and to limit timber harvesting on federal land to second-growth forest where it can be done sustainably.

A forest is more than a collection of trees. I would like to see the revised plan strengthen its protections of umbrella species such as the northern spotted owl, the marbled murrelet, and native salmon. Loss of such protections, as has been threatened since the NWFP inception, could undermine the best available science regarding these populations, and in the long run could lead to the suppression of old-growth forest conservation.

Respectfully submitted,

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