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Comments: The Northwest Forest Plan represented a historic compromise to protect and restore old-growth forest and stream habitat for threatened species, while still permitting some logging on public lands. I do not want to see it weakened in terms of protecting our environment. I do not want to see increased logging allowed. The Plan governs 24.5 million acres of federally managed land in western Oregon and Washington, and California. Fortunately, it has already helped protect and restore forests razed by decades of unchecked logging and it has become a model for much-needed science-based, landscape-scale ecosystem management.

Although the rationale for amending the Plan is changing conditions related to climate change and wildfire, the Forest Service has so far failed to address vital ecosystem services like carbon sequestration, clean water, and clean air. I want to protect these natural assets. I am concerned that the proposal is being rushed through, opening the door to weakening the Plan, which is not what I want to see happen.

I ask the Forest Service to ensure it maintains and strengthens protections for wildlife, mature and old-growth forests, stream habitat, clean water and air, and climate. For example, spotted owl habitat is mature, old-growth forest, which needs the highest available level of protection from harm or degradation. Our old-growth forests are our most valuable ecological resource that must be protected in perpetuity! Clean air and water, and strong habitat are beneficial to all of us. Thank you for your consideration.