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Comments: I am urging that there be more protection of old-growth forests and the creation of more old growth forest through the protection of mature forests.

Further, old growth forests should not be subject to timber harvest. They are far too precious and valuable to our ecosystems. Their role in helping us with the impacts of climate change is huge.

In addition, the current system of "economic allowances" for harvest in old growth forests is too broad and detrimental to national forests and to Pacific Northwest forests, where I live.

The new plan needs to provide specific direction on how new "old growth" forests will be recruited. It needs to consider how to create habitat connectivity.

Old growth forests take hundreds of years to restore. We don't have that time. We need a policy that addresses the huge challenges our ecosystem faces and that protects the old growth trees that protect us.

Thank you.