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Comments: Dear Forest Service,

thank you for this opportunity to comment. Here are my thoughts that are shared by family members and friends: The Northwest Forest Plan amendment cites climate change as one of the reasons for change. Therefore, one priority of any amendment must be to recognize and protect the ability of these forests to sequester and store vast amounts of carbon. This is supported by Executive Order 14072 from President Biden, that gave the Forest Service clear guidance to conserve and restore mature and old-growth forests as a natural climate solution. The plan amendment should protect and replenish all mature and old-growth trees and forests rather than leaving parts of it open to logging.

Another priority of the Northwest Forest Plan amendment must be preserving biodiversity and protecting habitat connectivity from fragmentation and loss. Preserving biodiversity in the face of climate change also means ensuring habitat resilience from the impacts of wildfire, drought, disease, and insects.

To address the increasing size and severity of wildfires, the Forest Service should consult with Tribes and consider incorporating Indigenous cultural burning practices.

Thank you for your consideration.