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Comments: Dear Forest Service,

Thank you for your work creating the proposed amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP).

I am writing today to encourage the amendment protect and conserve mature and old-growth trees and forests in both moist and seasonally dry forests. The NWFP amendment should prioritize sustaining and fostering older forests and trees into the future. To achieve this, the plan should bring an end to commercial logging on National Forest lands within its jurisdiction.

Second, I would like to see the amendment prioritize the effects of climate change. The Forest Service should reassess current wildfire management strategies in light of escalating wildfire activity. Wildfire management should only be focused in and around home sites and communities. Activities such as thinning and fuels reduction are not appropriate elsewhere.

Any fire management tools should be absolutely minimal and done according to the best available science with the least amount of burning volume possible. All burning has major climate consequences and prescribed burning needs to weigh any benefit with CO₂, methane, and climate-forcing soot emissions. Burning always harms public health and can also harm forest and ecosystem health even if well informed by traditional burning practices.

Third, conservation of the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and native salmonids was a cornerstone of the 1994 NFP, and an amendment should enhance protections for at-risk fish and wildlife. The NFP amendment should bolster efforts to recover wildlife, recognizing the ongoing threat of climate change and past management practices. To protect biodiversity in the era of climate change, the amendment must ensure that natural processes are maintained.

Finally, the amendment should recognize shifts in our region's socioeconomic landscape since 1994. While forest management in some form will always be a part of the Pacific Northwest economy, recreation and other pursuits now draw more people to our region than ever before. Building a modern forest workforce focused on ecological restoration of riparian and planted areas for the benefit of wildlife, fish, water, and biodiversity will contribute to ecological resilience of our National Forests and ensure continued public enjoyment of these lands we all value.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the Forest Service's proposed climate-smart amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan.