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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I'm writing to urge you to do all you can to preserve old growth and mature forests. They are essential not only for preserving habitat for endangered species, but for protecting our nation and our planet from the effects of global warming and climate change.

Sadly, mature and old growth forests continue to be logged on our national forests. Here in the Pacific Northwest our old growth forests are among the most carbon dense in the world. These forests also help us fight the biodiversity crisis. We do understand that in some rare circumstances, such as for public safety, that older trees need to be cut; in such cases those trees should be left on the forest floor. We also understand that here in the Pacific Northwest we need to manage our moist west side forests differently than our dryer east side forest. Yes, ecologically appropriate restoration is needed on those east side forests, but that should never include logging old growth trees.

Lastly, I encourage you to do a better job of ensuring strong monitoring and accountability measures. The public needs to know the results of these amended plans to protect old growth. In that way trust can be strengthened.

Sincerely,

Cathy Lewis-Dougherty

Lake Oswego, Oregon