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Comments: As a citizen who cares deeply about our environment, I wish to comment on the Draft National Old-Growth Amendment. I support the overall vision of the plan, but there are glaring flaws in the Amendment. Forests that are mature (so called "legacy forests") must be protected as part of this Amendment. They are the old growth forests of the future and play a vital role in combating climate change, preserving clean water, and preserving biodiversity. The Desired Conditions should include language about increasing the amount of old growth forests and conserving existing mature forests.

In addition, a blanket stewardship plan is not appropriate for all old growth forest types. Practices such as thinning forests for wildfire management are not necessarily helpful, and likely harmful, in wet forests west of the Cascade crest.

And finally, the Draft Amendment includes many inappropriate exceptions to the proposed standards which could lead to loss of old growth forests. All of the exceptions, outside of those for tribal use, should be removed from the plan.

Please do what is best to protect our old growth forests and mature forests.

Thank you.