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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to give input to this process. As a lifelong Washinton resident, I have witnessed how overreaching preservation policy has led to catastrophic fires, insect infestations and the destruction of lifestyle in rural communities. We have to return to a more centrist forest policy that balances the long-term health of forests with active forest management. Specifically, my family and I have owned forest property near Forks since 1968, so I think we have an informed and qualified perspective on this issue.

Logging is not evil and bad - it provides resources for building, jobs, and helps reduce the risks of massive fire and rampant and uncontrolled insect infestation. Leaving the forests "natural" is a nice concept that makes people feel good but one that has now proven to be a bad idea. We have decades of evidence that this is a failed policy - the definition of insanity is to do the same thing and expect a different result, so let's not continue to do that. Instead, let's partner with forest industry to develop and implement a rational policy that allows selective thinning and harvesting to generate a healthier, productive, and economically viable forest.

Letting dying and dead trees stand, not generating economic development and ultimately creating massive fires that waste millions of dollars while threatening human life and structures is the dumbest thing we can do. Let's do the smart thing and manage our forests actively in cooperation with industry and create a win for everyone.