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Comments: Any change to the current Old Growth Management Plan is NOT RECOMMENDED. We need fewer restrictions on management in the National Forest, not increased red tape and restrictions.

\*Current forest constraints are limiting the ability to properly manage forest in the Pacific Northwest. Late Successional Reserve's (LSR) primary focus is to accelerate old growth forest. More restrictions will only limit the ability for active management.

\*LSR continues to age out into a "hands-off" state after 80 years old. This ultimately decreases acreage yearly for additional management.

\*On ground decision making with the forest service is not consistent with what was advised in the current forest management plan.

\*Over a 20 year study demonstrated decreased old growth in a reserved area and increased old growth in active management areas.

\*Increased fire activity and severity continues to desecrate forests and communities in the Pacific Northwest, ultimately decreasing old growth stands. More active management protects old growth stands and allows road access to protect these areas from disease and fire.

Our recommendation is No Change to the current plan or alternately remove the Mt. Baker National forest from the National Plan and allow the current and extensive local Northwest Management Plan to protect our forest.