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First name: Jamie

Last name: Hillery

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Changes to the Old Growth Management Plan are unnecessary and not recommended. To effectively manage the landscape, we need fewer restrictions, not more. Current constraints are limiting the ability to properly manage Pacific Northwest Forests. Late Successional Reserves are already being accelerated and aging out into a hands off, no management state at 80 years of age. This process will continue over time to reduce acres that can be managed. Losses to fire and disease will continue to accelerate without active management. Without active management, road and other infrastructure loss will accelerate the decline in forest health. Many rural communities have been devastated. Further restrictions could be the final blow to many of these communities along with any work force that can provide management to help with forest health.

I would like to see no change in the current plan or better yet, remove the Mt Baker National Forest from the Old Growth Management Plan and allow the local Northwest Management plan to protect our regional forest.