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Comments: I urge the USFS to develop a mature forest policy that recognizes the important habitat and ecosystem services, including importantly, carbon sequestration, that mature forests offer. Our WA Center for Sustainable Forestry has several recommendations on how to protect our forestry assets in WA:
<https://www.c4rf.org/statewide-efforts> .

I also urge the USFS to use best available science instead of traditional BMP's with regard to fire prevention, thinning, and harvest practices. from my reading, the science has changed: traditional thinning is no longer necessarily going to improve forest health; prescribed burns may be beneficial if properly managed, traditional guidelines that protect against erosion are not substantial enough given climate change weather intensity.

As a WA resident birder I mourn the dearth of Marbled Murrelets every time I traverse the south Salish bays and Hood Canal. On the flip side, hiking the USFS 'donut' around Olympic national park with its enormous Douglas firs and abundant wildlife is hugely wonderful. Mature forests, protected and healthy, are key to preventing species loss, sequestering GHG's and holding the earth together - literally. Thank you for your work.