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Comments: Greetings!

Thank you, I appreciate the opportunity to make a comment on the future policy of our old growth forests. Having spent the past 60-plus years living in the Northwest, where I have spent much of my career serving timber dependent communities that have largely gone from fest to famine as small timber mills are bought out by large corporate giants who typically harvest as much of the private timber and leave little to nothing left for future generations to sustain themselves, my belief is that we should leave the small remaining fragments of old growth forests alone, other than to prune & thin for fire protection. Preservation must be the primary goal, rather than reverting to the old ways in which these ecosystems have been destroyed.

We have had 30 years to transition into new economies and the timber industry has evolved into becoming a fiber industry. With this paradigm shift, any commercial exploitation within these zone need to be off-limits, with specialty products I.e. possibly being an exception with a permit.

Thank you, again, for being able to provide input.