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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in response to the Forest Service's National Old-Growth Forest Plan Amendment Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which does not adequately address the issues facing our dwindling old growth ecosystems. Common and sound modern science tells us how important intact old growth ecosystems are for our environment and biosphere. They sequester carbon, provide unfathomable vast quantities of biodiversity, clean our water and air. In the Pacific Northwest, they shelter our remaining pristine salmon spawning grounds. There are indigenous traditional practices of forestry that have been sustainable and abundant for thousands of years. We need to consult with the Indigenous peoples of our country on the best practices in managing the last semblance of our nation's healthy ecology.

It is crucial that we halt logging in mature and old growth ecosystems. We need cultural fire to return to the landscape, to complete and replenish the soil and carbon cycles.

I am simply a young woman of Cascadia, in the Pacific Northwest, but I have taken the time to listen and learn on these subjects because I have seen climate change even in my lifetime. I know the forestry standards as they are, are not sustainable. We need a regenerative mindset and response to these issues. We need to listen to Indigenous voices.

Please, read my message and all the others of genuinely concerned citizens, and consider your choices and actions, not just the implications for you and yours, but all the future generations. Those people and living beings we may never know, but who are implicated by all our actions.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mandelyn Hill