

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/19/2025 8:15:15 PM

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Comments: I am writing to urge your support for strengthening the Northwest Forest Plan by increasing the protections it provides for mature and old-growth forests. The Northwest Forest Plan is an effective policy that is helping to address climate change and providing additional habitat needed to recover the threatened Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet.

Please strengthen the Northwest Forest Plan, and build upon the conservation gains made in the Pacific Northwest and northern California, by prioritizing enhanced protections for the region's mature and old-growth forests. This will benefit endangered birds, as well as the global climate.

This can be accomplished by adopting a modified version of Alternative C that provides added protection for mature forests essential to restore sufficient habitat. Increased buffers for forest management activities around Marbled Murrelet nests are also crucial to reducing nest predation, a key factor preventing population recovery. I am concerned about language in all of the alternatives promoting increased logging of mature forests. These mature forests are essential for increasing the amount of old growth habitat and must not be sacrificed. We need all the mature forests to be protected from any logging ever. They are needed for the environment and ecosystem they are located in.

This plan also fails to address the extinction risk facing the Northern Spotted Owl, which is suffering from a severe and rapid population decline, as well as the slower decline of the Marbled Murrelet population. It is essential the existing habitat protections of the Northwest Forest Plan be maintained and built upon, not weakened or watered down. We need all Northern Spotted Owls to be protected from all harm and not in any way hurt or killed. They were there first and are needed for the environment and ecosystem they live in. They are MORE important than any logging of the area.

Thank you for considering these critical issues. Please protect mature and old-growth forests to preserve biodiversity, fight climate change, and ensure the recovery of vulnerable bird species. Please protect all animals and birds in the all area as well as all mature and old -growth forest. We need all of these.