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Comments: We are writing to ask for 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 be good for endangered birds, as well as the global climate.

Adopting a modified version of Alternative C that provides added protection for mature forests essential to restore sufficient habitat will accomplish what is needed. In addition and also crucial is to increase the buffers for forest management activities around Marbled Murrelet nests. It will reduce nest predation, a key factor preventing population recovery.

We are concerned about language in all of the alternatives that promotes increase in logging of mature forests. These mature forests are essential for increasing the amount of old growth habitat. Do not log them.

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 therefore essential that the existing habitat protections of the Northwest Forest Plan be maintained and built upon, not weakened or watered down.

Please protect mature and old-growth forests to preserve biodiversity, fight climate change, and ensure the recovery of vulnerable bird species.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our remarks.