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Comments: My family and I enjoy vacationing in the Pacific Northwest, in large part because of the extensive forests of mature trees, and associated wildlife and fish. Please maintain protections for these special places!

We need mature and old-growth forests for many reasons. They store vast amounts of carbon, which we need to guard against climate change. They are resilient to wildfire. Forests are home to many plants and animals, and are essential to preserve biodiversity. Northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and coho salmon need these forests. Forests also filter and protect drinking water for communities across the Pacific Northwest.

The Forest Service should strengthen or expand protections for forest reserves under the Northwest Forest Plan to recruit more habitat, protect streams, and enhance carbon storage-not reduce them or open them to logging.

Please, protect these forests for the sake of our children and grandchildren.