

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/6/2025 8:20:12 PM

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Comments: Northwest Forest Plan Amendment #64745

I hope the Forest Service will consider the following points while amending the Plan:

President Biden's 2022 Executive Order on forests and the climate gave the Forest Service clear guidance that it should prioritize the protection and restoration of mature and old-growth forests (trees generally over 80 years old) across the nation as a natural carbon and climate solution.

Not all of these older forests were protected under the original Forest Plan. The plan amendments should protect all mature and old-growth trees and forests!

In light of the removal of BLM forests' from the Forest Plan, any amendments to the plan should enhance protected, connected, and redundant reserves by including all mature and old-growth forests and core wildlife areas without roads. The reserve network, including riparian reserves, should have clear and enforceable limits on logging and road impacts.

Fuels and fire management should focus on home ignition zones, and on non-commercial treatments and beneficial fire use, not commercial logging. Commercial logging for fuel reduction can negatively impact wildlife habitat, remove large fire-resistant trees, and create hazardous fire conditions. Standards must ensure that fuel reduction is both needed and effective before logging is allowed.

We need a stronger forest plan that addresses modern science and public values, tribal concerns AND expertise, and the needs of future generations. We all must preserve our natural heritage into the future.

Thank you.