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Comments: To Whom it May Concern:

I strongly support the core principles of the Northwest Forest Plan, which has successfully protected old-growth forests, improved salmon habitat, and safeguarded water quality for the past 30 years. As the plan undergoes revision, I urge the Forest Service to not only uphold its existing protections but to expand them.

Mature forests play a critical role in carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience. Ensuring that more mature forests can grow into old-growth status is essential for maintaining the ecological integrity of the region. It is imperative that the Forest Service strengthen protections by expanding forest reserves and limiting logging in areas that have the potential to develop into old-growth forests.

The Northwest Forest Plan has been a globally recognized model for conservation-based forest management. Its next iteration should build upon its successes by prioritizing biodiversity, long-term ecosystem health, and climate mitigation. Thank you for considering these comments and for your commitment to science-based forest stewardship.

Sincerely,

Montana Horschler

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