

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/8/2025 12:22:48 AM

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Comments: Concerning the proposed revisions of the Northwest Forest Plan, I am very concerned about the increase in the allowable tree age for cutting. This will begin to affect middle age trees that are on the path to old growth. These trees must be preserved because they 1) absorb more carbon, 2) are more fire resistant, and 3) are the most important components of a healthy forest. Older trees provide critical habitat for many wild species, such as marbled murrelets, owls, voles, and flying squirrels. When they die they afford homes for birds and other animals in their hollow parts and their decomposition on the forest floor provides rich ground for the plants and forbs that depend on them.

Please save the current regulations to leave trees over 80 years in the final revision. There are plenty of trees less than 80 years old that can be cut in our overgrown forests.