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Comments: I am writing to urge the Forest Service to update the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment to preserve current protections for old growth forest trees and to take the opportunity to engage local communities, especially tribal communities, in management activities. These forests harbor critical biological diversity and support traditional cultural uses. By expanding harvested areas and increasing the maximum age for tree harvest, the draft amendment brings serious ecological risks to the region that are not justified by the questionable public benefit of the harvests. As the region grows warmer and drier, it will become harder for forested areas to regenerate themselves. The best buffer against irreversible changes to the ecological community is intact old growth forest. It is always easier to keep something precious than to replace it. Let's keep it.