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Comments: Hello,

Having grown up in the old growth forests of the Pacific Northwest and having had 2 generations before me in Oregon and Washington do the same, it is heart wrenching to see the USFS attempt to rollback the incredible work of the Northwest Forest Plan put into place just a few decades back. The draconian changes the DEIS proposes in any Alternative other than A are terrifying - for threatened wildlife, for the climate, for water, for future generations, for human health. Nobody benefits but profit margins for the timber industry and the revenues USFS receives from those contracts.

I am asking that you choose Alternative A and continue forward on the well laid path of the Northwest Forest original plan whereby protecting old-growth and mature forests and all the biodiversity that they include as your number one priority for our national land.

Mature and old-growth forests are essential to life on Earth. That has been irrefutably demonstrated continually and is what built the foundation of the solid Northwest Forest Plan to begin with years ago. That fact has not changed, only become obviously evident. Old growth forests are natural carbon-storage sinks, resilient against wildfire, and critical to mitigating climate change. These forests provide essential habitat for imperiled species like the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and coho salmon. They also filter and protect drinking water for communities across the Pacific Northwest.

Increasing logging would irrefutably worsen the biodiversity and climate crises.

In the current biodiversity crises we are living in 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, allowing more mature forests to become old growth-not reduce them or open them to logging.

Management decisions should reflect Tribal stewardship practices, uphold sovereignty, and ensure meaningful consultation and engagement with Tribal communities while implementing Alternative A. Pairing tribal agency and implementing programs of cultural respect, that have been too long coming, should not be predicated on increasing logging in these forests. That is a false choice manufactured by the agency.

We do not need a weakening of the Northwest Forest Plan. We are exactly in the moment when we need a strengthening and expansion of its protective powers on our national forests.

Thank you for taking serious and thoughtful consideration of the impacts of your decision making on the next generations.