

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/11/2025 7:29:56 PM

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Organization:

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Comments: I am from Salem Oregon and have lived in the western states of Oregon and Washington my whole life. I have hiked many trails and camped many nights in national forests and BLM lands. I have canoed rivers and hiked across the coast range of Oregon on foot. As a Boy /scout Master I took the Scouts on many overnights and snow campouts in national forests. I want the highest level of protection possible for these national lands for the present use and future enjoyment of my children and grandchildren. I wish the NW Forest Plan could be strengthened in the following areas:

Old-Growth and Mature Forests: Mature and old-growth forests are natural carbon-storing champions, resilient against wildfire, and critical to mitigating climate change. Logging them would worsen the biodiversity and climate crises. We need to keep these trees off limits to logging and damage to their surrounding ecosystems and animals that live there.

Wildlife Habitat and Clean Water: These forests provide essential habitat for imperiled species like the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and coho salmon. Our salmon numbers are in steep decline and if everyone does not take radical action, we are going to all eat farm raised fish! This will be a preventable disaster. Our forests also filter and protect drinking water for communities across the Pacific Northwest.

Forest Reserves Are Vital to future generations: 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-not reduce them or open them to logging.

Improve Support of Tribal Sovereignty and Environmental Justice: Management decisions should reflect Tribal stewardship practices, uphold sovereignty, and ensure meaningful consultation and engagement with Tribal communities. Pairing these components with the Forest Service's plan for weakened environmental protections is a false choice manufactured by the agency.

We need a plan that will survive all types of political biases and one that will not be impacted by presidential or congressional self-serving positions. One that is based on science and not economics or political views. Please modify the proposed plan to make it meaningful for future citizens to have a wonderful outdoor experience while preserving carbon stocks and the forest ecosystem.

Thankyou. John L.