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Comments: I am writing regarding the proposed amendments to the Northwest Forest Plan which was supposed to be a 100-year plan given how long trees take to mature. But revision is needed as we know so much more about forests than we did thirty years ago.

We know that 40% of stored carbon in forests is in the biggest 3% of trees and that mature forests are a powerful natural climate solution. We didn't understand carbon and climate change thirty years ago. Now we know how dire our situation is and that we've a solution in our mature forests if we leave them alone. We also know harvesting our forests releases massive carbon and eliminates their mitigating effects for many decades.

We've also learned mature forests are resilient against wild fire, store massive amounts of clean water, and nurture complex diversity.

I propose you follow the science and be guided by scientists not private contractors. I propose you consider cumulative effects of cutting mature forests not timber targets and performance reports.

I support tribal inclusion and best thinking on forest fires along with strong protections for mature forests not doubling or tripling cutting at a breakneck speed.

I love our Northwest forests. I can never again hike Opal Creek or enjoy Oneonta Gorge. But more importantly I love life on this planet and the revised Northwest Forest Plan will greatly effect the quality of life here going forward. The loss of our mature forests would be an environmental, economic and spiritual disaster. Think longterm. Consider deeply.