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Comments: I am an Oregonian writing with concern about our public wild lands. The Northwest Forest Plan has the potential to either protect or endanger the natural corridor of woodlands which distinguishes our region from so many other pieces of land in the country.

Apart from the unmatched natural beauty of our temperate rainforests, the Pacific Northwest captures more carbon per acre than the Amazon rainforest.

Despite the delusions of a small political faction, for rational Americans who believe the science, the climate is experiencing dramatic and dangerous change. It only takes letting our guard down for a small time, or without the right protections, for greedy industries to destroy our remaining mature forests to harvest its wood material. I do not believe the value of our old growth environments has anything to do with how much toilet paper or plywood a timber company can sell from it.??These lands have been protected for us, they belong to the people as forests, not as wood product. These forests are what defines our region, the diversity of life and the health of the watersheds inside an old growth are invaluable and should be protected for generations to come. After years of irresponsible logging, as species go extinct at record rates, and as more and more land is ravaged by wildfire caused by climate change, we, you, owe it to the life and people of our land to establish a plan that protects and restores the land to the highest degree.

As is, the Northwest Forest Plan is both important and incompetent. I take strong opposition to increasing the logging levels in public forests, which the Forest Service has proposed in their amendment to the plan. We cannot afford double or triple the logging at this crucial time. We cannot open mature forests to logging, we cannot bring a chainsaw to ancient public land. I believe this is as a moral rule - as stewards of our public land. There is no more dense a region of our regions lifeforms than the climax ecologies of an old growth, mature forest.

A harvested forest is not a forest. There is nothing to protect once its "value" has been extracted, and that extraction steals the inherent value of the land from the people who enjoy it. Logging is inherently opposed to protection.

I do support some parts of the amendment, such as the beneficial fire approach, and co-stewardship agreements. We must protect biodiversity where it still lasts. Wildlife of all kinds, not just the currently endangered life, needs to be protected in the coming decades of destruction which we face.

I ask you personally, search your heart, think of the opportunity you have to protect life itself, and implement a strong forest plan without more logging, especially of any forest even approaching maturity. The health of our region depends on your decisions. Do not make the money that can be made from harvesting a consideration in how we protect the very vulnerable wildlife of our land.