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Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

National forests covered by the Northwest Forest Plan include places human communities rely on and care deeply about.

The public lands of the United States are the envy of the world, our most precious gem. From favorite places to hike, streamside picnic areas we take our families, or the scenic backdrop we enjoy on roadtrips, the experiences we have on these public lands are what make our country so great.

Limiting aggressive logging, especially in mature and old-growth forests, helps ensure these forests can continue to provide valuable community resilience in the form of high quality drinking water, fishing opportunities that come from stream protections, accessible recreation opportunities that support mental and physical wellbeing, refuge from extreme climate events such as heat waves, quality of life that supports diverse economic opportunities, tourism that helps stimulate our economy, ongoing ecological and natural history education, artistic pursuits like photography and nature writing, and an endless amount of other reasons to protect our forests.

We must be good stewards of our forests. We are cutting our forests at a rate that is too fast to replace. The proposed action alternative is woefully inadequate to maintain the integrity of the Pacific Northwest's forests in the face of human-caused climate change because it results in fewer large, carbon-storing trees on the landscape, increased risk of wildfire via the logging of fire-resilient trees, and harm to our watersheds. The urgency of the climate crisis and the importance of protecting intact natural ecosystems is made clear in the 2023 IPCC Report:

There is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a livable and sustainable future for all. The choices and actions implemented in this decade will have impacts now and for thousands of years. Maintaining the resilience of biodiversity and ecosystem services at a global scale depends on effective and equitable conservation of approximately 30% to 50% of Earth's land, freshwater and ocean areas, including currently near natural ecosystems.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to the protections you put in place for Americans to enjoy our forests for the centuries ahead of us,

Jeremy S