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Comments: We must have stronger protections for our older forests. Specifically:

Stronger Protections for Mature Trees: The new plan must enhance current protections for mature and old-growth forests. In addition to protecting old trees, the plan should provide strategies for preserving the next generation of large, old trees across the landscape. East of the Cascades our forests are slow to mature; by protecting the next generation of trees, we can grow structural complexity and eventually see more old growth.

Tribal Involvement: Meaningful inclusion of tribes in forest management was not considered in the original plan and is essential going forward.

Climate Resilience: The plan must address the challenges posed by climate change to ensure ecosystems continue to thrive. Currently the plan addresses managing fire and thinning but it should incorporate additional climate-related issues such as wildlife migration and connectivity and watershed health.

Habitat Connectivity: Our national forests are chock full of roads that fragment habitat. Reducing road density improves habitat connectivity for wildlife and reduces impacts on aquatic environments.

More Fire in our Dry Forests: Our dryland forests are adapted to fire. Increasing prescribed fire and cultural burning across these landscapes will improve forest health and resilience.