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Comments: I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the Northwest Forest Plan, specifically those related to increased logging and changes in forest management practices. While I understand the need to address wildfire risks and support local economies, I urge the U.S. Forest Service to prioritize long-term environmental sustainability.

In particular, I am concerned about the potential impact on mature and old-growth forests, which are critical for biodiversity and carbon sequestration. These ecosystems provide essential habitat for wildlife, store significant carbon, and help maintain overall ecological health. We should be cautious about weakening protections in areas designated for conservation or allowing logging in these irreplaceable landscapes.

I believe that active forest management is important, but it must be done in a way that balances both ecological preservation and wildfire risk reduction. Instead of increasing logging in these sensitive areas, I encourage the Forest Service to explore more innovative solutions, such as controlled burns, thinning, and other restoration techniques, to enhance forest health without compromising conservation goals.

I support efforts to engage local communities and create sustainable economic opportunities, but we must ensure that forest management decisions are informed by the best available science and account for climate change impacts.

I hope the Forest Service will carefully consider these concerns and strive for a balanced approach that protects our natural heritage for future generations.