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Comments: We are living in a time of great peril. The human destruction of our ancient forests has driven species to the brink of extinction. Fortunately, the NW Forest Plan has protected mature and old growth forests for 30 years, but we can do more. Now, it is more important than ever to prioritize these forests to include longer, NOT shorter rotations, to naturally sequester as much carbon as possible. The threshold must at least be retained at 80 years to do this and to give sensitive species a chance for survival. Anything less is a death sentence and spits in the face of science. This is not the time to accelerate logging. The U.S. Forest Service's amendment to do this puts us all at risk.

In addition, the DEIS's justification that logging and thinning mature forests is scientifically flawed. Our NW mature forests that are allowed to grow and develop canopy closure create a moist, fire resilient ecosystem that actually reduces fire risks. The best way to reduce fire risks to communities is to harden homes- not thin and cut down our healthy, mature forests. We need to be moving forward by protecting the very forests that celebrate biodiversity and provides us with a rich natural carbon sink, not destroying them which will only harm ourselves. Please prioritize the health of our water, air, soil- our fisheries, our ability to recreate and enjoy the beautiful rich ecosystem that is unique to Oregon over increased timber supplies. We must think LONG TERM for the next generations to come.