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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the NW Forest Plan. Please protect the Pacific NW forests, and the flora and fauna that depend on them. Mature and old-growth forests are natural carbon-storing champions, resilient against wildfire, and critical to mitigating climate change. Logging them would worsen the biodiversity and climate crises. These forests provide essential habitat for imperiled species like the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and coho salmon. They also filter and protect drinking water for communities across the Pacific Northwest. The Forest Service should strengthen or expand protections for forest reserves under the Northwest Forest Plan to recruit more habitat, protect streams, and enhance carbon storage-not reduce them or open them to logging. The NW Forest Plan should take into account Tribal participation and the communities that would be affected by the Plan.

We are deciding our future. The decisions about our environment and specifically our forests that are made today will lead to a bright future or a very dark one. We cannot pretend our actions today do not have consequences. I hope your agency will do the right thing for the overall health and wellbeing of our communities, nation and planet.