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Comments: The Importance of Old-Growth and Mature Forests: 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.

Wildlife Habitat and Clean Water: 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.

Forest Reserves Are Vital: 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.

Support Tribal Sovereignty and Environmental Justice: Management decisions should reflect Tribal stewardship practices, uphold sovereignty, and ensure meaningful consultation and engagement with Tribal communities.

Pairing these components with the Forest Service's plan for weakened environmental protections is a false choice manufactured by the agency.

Your Personal Connection: Share your unique experiences in these forests-your favorite hiking trail, a family camping trip, or simply why these wild places matter to you.