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Title:

Comments: Intact forests are an absolutely vital part of our ecosystem. Yes, logged wood has value as well, but we are taking for granted the monetary value that mature and old growth forests provide. They save us money by being carbon sequesters' and being strong against wildfires. The small trees that are planted after logging are nothing but kindling for a fire, they also don't grow up to be healthy forests as there is no diversity. Our forests provide essential habitat to wildlife and other plant species, as well as protecting our exquisite drinking water in the PNW. By protecting our drinking water and helping resist forest fires, our forests are saving money as we don't have to deal with the repercussions should those things not be protected. Lastly, our forests are absolutely essential to our PNW community- the native tribes that have called these forests home for thousands of years, the people who have grown up camping and hiking around these forests, and the people who visit our forests because it is so rare to find such beautiful places elsewhere in the world. If you are from the PNW I am sure you have seen the marks on our forests when driving past a logged patch of land, it's sad to see such beautiful and seemingly untouched places bare the mark of man. To imagine seeing even more of these patches is disheartening. I can't imagine stripping the PNW of exactly what makes it a special place- our forests, especially our old growth forests. We need to be protecting our natural spaces more than ever as they are what makes our home so beautiful, safe, and special.