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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear project official,

Thank you for the opportunity to give public comment on the Northwest Forest Plan amendment process. I am a younger person who cares about protecting our forests, and I hope we can prioritize their preservation.

Over its first 30 years, the plan has had the additional benefit of boosting progress toward carbon reduction goals as management choices result in retention of the old growth and mature forest critical to carbon sequestration and storage at scale (USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station, Watts et al. 2017). The only alternatives that should be considered in this amendment process are those that maintain and expand protections for old growth and complex mature forest through measures like the Late Successional Reserve designation and Aquatic Conservation Strategy. I support a modified Alternative B (B+) to better recruit old forests, burn dry forests, improve habitat connectivity, protect aquatic ecosystems, and restore old forests in Reserves.

The addition of climate change adaptation into forest planning is essential. We need to continue to harmonize forest management across ownerships to prepare for exacerbated climate impacts like flooding, drought, wildfire, and hotter temperatures. However, guardrails are needed for forest health and wildfire resilience projects in older forests to ensure that ecological function and climate goals remain a priority over maximizing timber revenues. The current language proposed for expanding active management on federal lands should be amended to reflect an ultimate prioritization of the plan's original science-based, species and habitat-oriented goals.

Much appreciation for your time! Take care, Rebecca