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Comments: Dear project official:

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the Northwest Forest Plan amendment process.

I'm a big fan of the plan. For 30 years, it's helped us move towards reducing our carbon output as we retain more mature and old growth forest and thus sequester more carbon. 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.

Indigenous stewardship of forests has shaped our landscape since time immemorial, and is essential to building a climate resilient future for our region. The incorporation of Tribal consultation and co-stewardship of our federal forest lands is a long-awaited and much needed addition to the NFP. Adopted elements should support Tribal co-management and co-stewardship informed by indigenous knowledge, access to culturally important sites, subsistence hunting and gathering on federal lands, and other issues of interest to Tribes. The plan should ensure that these elements are successfully and sustainably implemented.