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Comments: Please approve a final Northwest Forest Plan that prioritizes wildlife, climate, and ancient forests, not logging at all costs.

We need a strong Plan to protect our remaining mature and old-growth forests and the many imperiled species that depend on that forest habitat for survival. We also need it to protect our collective interest in clean air, drinkable water, and the climate stabilizing benefits forests provide by storing and sequestering vast amounts of carbon.

Alternative B (the Proposed Alternative) and Alternative D options in the Draft EIS would extend the threshold on logging from 80 year stands to 120 in moist forest and 150 in dry forest. This is unacceptable and would conflict with the foundational objective for the forest plan to adequately protect endangered and sensitive species like the Marbled Murrelet, Northern Spotted Owl, and Humboldt's flying squirrel that depend on closed-canopy mature and old-growth forests for survival. We urge the U.S. Forest Service to retain the threshold at 80 years. ?

The DEIS relies on flawed justification that logging and thinning in mature west-side moist forests will reduce fire risk. Current scientific evidence refutes this. The best way to minimize fire risk and increase climate resiliency is to let moist forests grow and develop canopy closure. ?
Fire management only needs to occur within the fire danger or "ignition zone" near at-risk communities and other human infrastructure. The most effective way to reduce the threat of wildfire to communities is to treat fuels in the immediate vicinity of homes, buildings and other vulnerable infrastructure.?

None of the alternatives in the DEIS make any real progress on carbon sequestration and in fact, backtrack on what could be gained. USFS needs to prioritize Natural Climate Solutions including longer forest rotations, leaving mature and old-growth trees on the landscape and managing for higher forest complexity to sequester as much carbon as possible. ?