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Title:

Comments: I support keeping the Northwest Forest Plan as it is, or even increasing protections to mature and old growth forest and wildlife, rather than implementing any of the proposed amendments which increase logging those forests. The few mature and old growth forests that remain in the Northwest are crucial to carbon storing, filtering water that ends up in our drinking supply, and protecting habitat for animal and plant biodiversity. Mature and old growth forests, especially in the moister Western Cascades and Coastal Range, are more resilient against wildfires than other landscapes. Protections for communities against wildfire should come from improving defensible space around homes and home hardening, rather than logging these precious few last remaining stands of mature and old growth forest. Timber should come from tree plantations and not forests that are contributing so much to the health of our environment when left just as they are or with minimal, selective thinning (along the lines of traditional Native American practices).