

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/16/2025 8:07:10 PM

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Comments: I am writing with deep concerns about changes that could be made to the Northwest Forest Plan. Protecting the old growth forest of the northwest is extremely important for many reasons, including the environment and the economy. The NWFP was created to avoid the consequences of destroying a forest that supports a healthier place for those who live there, along with a better global environment. Also, as places of nature become fewer, these old growth forests will continue to generate tourism for local communities as long as they exist.

As a mountain guide, I know preserving nature is a long-term answer. Investing, protecting, and supporting natural wonders, like forests in the northwest, will create a sustainable use of resources instead of a one-time use for greed. Communities and people's mental health tend to do better in areas with access to nature, and property values are better.

Beyond supporting humans in their daily and financial life, the forest of the northwest helps stabilize the climate by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, cooling temperatures, storing water, reducing the risk of forest fires, and providing a habitat for endangered species.

Last summer, I visited the Cascade highway. The vast mountains and the forests of tall trees were magical. As I wander through the forest protected from the canopy above, I felt connected to the earth and knew this would be a place I would return to many times. After my hike that day, I returned to the small town of Marblemont for dinner. In the restaurant hung a panoramic photo of the northern cascades with peaks and glaciers extended out in every direction, and it said, "The American Alps".

The old growth forests of the northwest are essential to many ecosystems and communities. Please do NOT amend the Northwest Forest Plan, especially not in ways that will allow for the destruction of old growth forests and threaten the future of healthy lands and people.

I object to the purposed changes to the Northwest Forest Plan.