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First name: Meica

Last name: Magnani

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a college instructor, I teach a course on Old Growth Forest conservation in the PNW (<https://news.northeastern.edu/2024/09/06/ancient-forests-pacific-northwest/>). I have met with forest ecologists, loggers, park rangers, First Nation and Tribal leaders, and activists regarding this issue. I have watched students who have never thought about trees or the conservation of forests transform as they learn about and experience the majestic beauty of ancient forests. I was born and raised in Oregon and many members of my family were in the logging industry.

I urge you to please: (a) Protect old growth. We have very little of it left and it is a crucial ecosystem. There is still so much to learn about it. It plays a critical role in climate mitigation and preserving biodiversity. We owe it to future generations to protect it so they can at least have the opportunity to experience it. (b) Do not blindly succumb to commercial interests. Our forests are not just for profit, but for quality of life. They are also important for the quality of air, water, soil, and wildlife habitat. (c) Consider indigenous perspectives and interests in the updating of the plan. They have been left out for too long.

Thank you.