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Comments: I'm disappointed by the NWFP DEIS, in particular Alternatives B and D. Each would extend the threshold on logging from 80 year stands to 120 in moist forest and 150 in dry forest. Permitting logging in forests that are 80 years or older would devastate habitat for the endangered species the original NWFP worked to protect -- and successfully! Also, these forests store massive amounts of carbon, helping us all to combat the existential challenge of climate change. Furthermore, older forests, unlike younger forests, are not as susceptible to fire. Their canopy is high above the ground. Their bark is thick and fire resistant. For these reasons, and more, mature and old-growth forests must be preserved and protected. The clear and cool streams they nurture provide key habitat for salmon and provide municipalities with fresh, clean water. Also, these forests and streams are magnets for a burgeoning outdoor recreational economy that has developed since the 1994 NWFP was established. Yes, the climate is getting warmer and forest fires are a risk. Communities must be protected from fire, but -- much as the timber industry might like -- fire must not be used as an excuse to cut mature and old-growth forests.

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