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First name: Heather

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I am writing to express my strong support for policies that prioritize the long-term health and protection of our Northwest forests. These forests are not only vital ecosystems supporting diverse plant and animal life, but they also play a critical role in carbon sequestration, water filtration, and climate resilience. As we face increasing environmental challenges, it is more important than ever to ensure that forest management prioritizes conservation, biodiversity, and sustainable stewardship over short-term economic interests.

I urge the Forest Service to:

- \*Strengthen protections for old-growth and mature forests, which are irreplaceable in their ability to store carbon and provide habitat.
- \*Limit logging and other extractive activities that threaten forest ecosystems and contribute to climate change.
- \*Prioritize Indigenous knowledge and land stewardship practices in forest management decisions.
- \*Ensure transparency and public engagement in all policy changes affecting these lands.

The Northwest forests are a national treasure, and decisions made now will have lasting impacts on future generations. I appreciate your consideration and urge you to take decisive action to protect these irreplaceable ecosystems.

Sincerely,

Heather Whipple