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Comments: Thanks for the chance to give input.

From biology classes and readings about recent forest systems research, it is clear to me that preserving mature and old growth forests is critically important.

They are much more complex, stable, and resilient systems than the monoculture versions, like doug fir plantations, or clearcuts. More fire-resistant, pest- and other infestations-resistant, and they provide better wind-breaks. They don't create massive erosion and landslides, or turbid warm waterways hard for aquatic life to survive in. They shade and cool the streams instead.

We certainly need some amount of timber-harvesting for wood and paper products, that is reasonable, especially if done thoughtfully. But logging the already greatly reduced, remaining mature/old growth stands is not necessary, and in fact it is risky.

Risky because of accelerating climate change and the resulting extreme weather events and wildfires. Our older forests in the Northwest process and store a massive amount of carbon (which otherwise would remain in the atmosphere if they're logged).

Risky to wildlife and plant life which relies on this habitat to survive and thrive in. And of course our environment is an interdependent system which needs balance to function well. We humans are not immune from the dire effects of the cascades of this kind of imbalance.

And risky to our clean drinking water supplies and flood control.

Also, obviously, we humans value these forests for the recreation, camping, fishing and hunting opportunities they provide.

This plan needs to be protecting MORE mature and old growth forest, rather than allowing a potentially huge increase in logging (up to two to three times as much as is currently permitted). Which would be a huge mistake.

I do like the mention of including Native American participation in an ongoing way, though it shouldn't be linked with increased logging. Their experience and knowledge is valuable, and it's important for them to be able to participate in the decision-making process.

Thank you,
Robin Bundy