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Comments: I am writing to express my strong opposition to Northwest Forest Plan Amendment #64745, which threatens the health of our forests, the safety of our communities, and the integrity of the ecosystems we all depend on. This proposed amendment is not only counterintuitive but also dangerous-jeopardizing the very resources it claims to manage.

The forests of the Pacific Northwest are among the last remaining bastions of mature and old-growth ecosystems, vital for their unparalleled ability to capture carbon, regulate water cycles, and shelter hundreds of species-including the Northern Spotted Owl and Pacific Salmon, both already threatened by habitat destruction ?. Opening 800,000 acres of these forests to logging is a direct assault on biodiversity, ensuring further species decline while accelerating the climate crisis ?.

Beyond environmental concerns, this amendment poses significant risks to public health and community resilience. Mature forests act as natural air and water filters, reducing pollution and ensuring clean drinking water for millions of Americans. Increased logging will worsen erosion, degrade watersheds, and exacerbate flooding risks-factors that will have costly consequences for taxpayers and local economies ?.

Moreover, claims that expanded logging will create sustainable economic opportunities are misleading. The reality is that short-term logging profits come at the cost of long-term economic and environmental devastation. Healthy forests support ecotourism, recreation, and local businesses far beyond the timber industry. By prioritizing conservation and climate resilience over destructive logging, we ensure a future where both people and nature thrive.

I urge you to reject Amendment #64745 and instead strengthen protections for these irreplaceable forests. The best way to safeguard our nation's future is by maintaining intact, resilient ecosystems that protect our health, biodiversity, and climate stability.

Nick Twomey