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Organization:

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Comments: It is a monument to the passage of time. Out of ancient and long-dead behemoths sprout tender saplings that will, many years hence, reach through colossal trunks into a soaring canopy like the ones that surround me now. The damp air thrums with the wholeness, the interconnectedness of life. I am so deeply immersed in time as to be out of time, and there comes an inexorable feeling, "sweeping like a gentle tide pervading the mind with a tranquil mood of deepest worship."

This describes my experiences of being in the mature and old-growth forests of the Pacific Northwest. They have been some of the most meaningful experiences of my life, and they were only made possible by the protections of the Northwest Forest Plan.

The NWFP was not perfect, and the Native people who have called this land home since time immemorial should be central to decisions about future stewardship of these lands. But this cannot come at the expense of increasing logging in mature and old-growth forests by redefining what qualifies as a young or mature forest, as proposed in the NWFP amendments. To log these forests is no less a travesty than demolishing the Pyramids of Giza or bulldozing the Notre Dame in Paris. These forests are more than timber; they are vital and irreplaceable. Future generations deserve to experience, as I have, these loci of the numinous.