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The Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) isn't perfect. It doesn't address climate change, and it has weak support for Tribal consultation, co-stewardship, and incorporation of Indigenous knowledge. Nevertheless, it has provided progress toward carbon reduction goals as management choices result in retention of the old growth and mature forest critical to carbon sequestration.

The only alternatives that should be considered in this amendment process are those that maintain and expand protections for old growth and complex mature forest through measures like the Late Successional Reserve designation and Aquatic Conservation Strategy. I support a modified Alternative B (B+) to better recruit old forests, burn dry forests, improve habitat connectivity, protect aquatic ecosystems, and restore old forests in Reserves.

Guardrails are needed for forest health and wildfire resilience projects in older forests to ensure that ecological function and climate goals remain a priority over maximizing timber revenues. The current language proposed for expanding active management on federal lands should be amended to reflect an ultimate prioritization of the plan's original science-based, species and habitat-oriented goals. The plan should also ensure the incorporation of Tribal consultation and co-stewardship of our federal forest lands