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First name: Jason

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service Officials,

I object to the proposed new North West Forest Plan and the grave harm it would cause to North West forests, and old growth forests in particular. The North West is known for its majestic forests that support outdoor recreational spending valued at \$16 billion, and 192,000 jobs, according to the 2022 Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Oregon alone. These are the various jobs that benefit small and large businesses, not a handful of logging industries. As a resident of Oregon, I value a healthy environment that can support and grow these jobs of the future, not a return to unsustainable practices of the past.

Multitude of research studies show unique value of old-growth forests that cannot be replicated with recently regrowing clear cuts. Given that for a time, the benefits of the old-growth forests were not well-understood, they present an opportunity for research that could lead to better understanding of our natural resources. We should strive to preserve this disappearing resource, not mindlessly exploit it for the quick short-term profit.

The North West has something unique to offer to the world. We must protect our forests from additional logging. Thank you.