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Comments: I am an Oregon resident, father and avid outdoorsman who is gravely concerned with the proposed changes to the Northwest Forest Plan. The proposed actions of "alternatives b,c and d" in how they address opening more mature and old-growth forest for timber production in our national forests are short-sighted, dangerous and irresponsible. In a time of burgeoning environmental destruction due to climate change, increased wildfires and biodiversity loss, we need our mature and old-growth forests more than ever. They are massively important for carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat, and clean water, not to mention being a point of pride for all Oregonians. Older and Late Succesional Reserve forests are less susceptible to wildfire destruction due to the size of the trees, promoting a safer and naturally occurring wildfire cycle than the complete destruction and habitat loss in younger forests hit by fire.

Beyond all the environmental concerns of which there are many, there are cultural and public concerns. These forests are public lands. These trees and the habitats they support belong to the American public, and should not be sold out from under us to the profit of timber producers. They are a shared resource that goes far beyond the value of just how many millions of board feet can be harvested. They are a place for hikers to explore and breathe in. They are a place for fathers to go camping with their children and teach them about our place in nature. They are a place for hunters to hone their skills -and in some cases to feed their families. They are a place for people to forage delicious mushrooms and herbal medicines. They are a place for anglers to find peace at the river's edge and hopefully bring home a trout. They are a place for salmon to spawn, predators to hunt, and prey to survive the winter. They are a sacred place that allows us to feel and comprehend our human lineage back into pre-history in ways that no other place on earth can do, because there is no other place on earth like the Pacific Northwest Forest. We should be glorifying these places, protecting them and sharing the experience of them with the world, not chopping them down for quick profit. Especially at a time when our climate needs all the help it can get.

I am completely opposed to the changing of the Northwest Forest Plan, and call on you to do your duty to protect these forests for ourselves, future generations, and the planet as a whole.

Thank you.