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Comments: I am writing to express my strong opposition to Northwest Forest Plan Amendment #64745. This proposed amendment poses significant risks to our forests, wildlife, and the communities that rely on these natural resources.

The Northwest Forest Plan was originally established to balance environmental protection with sustainable resource management. Amendment #64745 undermines this balance by prioritizing short-term economic gains over the long-term health of our ecosystems. The proposal to increase logging in sensitive areas threatens not only the rich biodiversity of these forests but also the very watersheds that provide clean water to countless communities.

Furthermore, this amendment fails to adequately consider the impacts of climate change on our forest ecosystems. Increased logging activities can exacerbate habitat fragmentation and contribute to the loss of carbon storage, further jeopardizing our efforts to combat climate change. Protecting old-growth forests is essential not only for the species that depend on them but also for maintaining the ecological integrity of our region.

Additionally, many local communities depend on ecotourism and recreational activities that thrive in healthy, undisturbed forests. By implementing Amendment #64745, we risk damaging the natural beauty that draws visitors and supports local economies. It is imperative that we protect these areas for future generations to enjoy and benefit from.

I urge you to reconsider this amendment and prioritize sustainable forest management practices that align with the original goals of the Northwest Forest Plan. Our forests are not merely resources to be exploited; they are vital ecosystems that require our stewardship and protection.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I hope to see a commitment to preserving the integrity of our forests and the diverse life they support.