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Comments: To those in authority regarding the proposed Pacific Northwest forest action, I provide my comments. As a resident of the PNW since 1961, having enjoyed many expeditions in the Pilchuck and Granite Falls wilderness in my youth and learned the strong dependence of forest health on human well-being, I see several deficits in the present proposed plan.

First, any components of the NWFP amendment that weaken core protections for mature and old-growth forests and the suite of water quality, species habitat, and carbon storage values they provide should not move forward. Second, while those components that strengthen the NWFP's commitment to Tribal sovereignty and inclusion, environmental justice, and beneficial fire use should move forward, they should not be held hostage to increased logging in these vital forests.

Third, while wood has become a luxury commodity, plastic that imitates wood offers many advantages including durability and pest resistance. Plastic also presents an urgent disposability issue. It behooves your authority to redirect funds earmarked for timber purchase into recycling plastic into an affordable alternative for wood markets.

Thank you.