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Comments: Mature and old-growth forests are natural carbon-storing champions, resilient against wildfire, and critical to mitigating climate change. Logging them would worsen the biodiversity and climate crises.

These forests provide essential habitat for imperiled species like the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and coho salmon. They also filter and protect drinking water for communities across the Pacific Northwest.

The Forest Service should strengthen or expand protections for forest reserves under the Northwest Forest Plan to recruit more habitat, protect streams, and enhance carbon storage-not reduce them or open them to logging.

Management decisions should reflect Tribal stewardship practices, uphold sovereignty, and ensure meaningful consultation and engagement with Tribal communities. Pairing these components with the Forest Service's plan for weakened environmental protections is a false choice manufactured by the agency.

My family moved from the East Coast to the PNW so we could enjoy these majestic mountains and camp in their forests. This type of logging will fundamentally change the environment in which we live. We are completely against reducing the protections of the Northwest Forest.