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Comments: Hello! I live in Enumclaw, right at the base of Mount Rainier, and on the edge of Mount Baker Snoqualmie national Forest. Yesterday I had the pleasure of hiking a beautiful trail of old growth. Forest filled with rich biodiversity. Forests like this need to be protected and managed as they are a vital part of our world ecosystem.

I have heard that there is serious discussion of increasing logging in our National forests. As a biologist, I can say this is a terrible idea. Our forests need to be managed properly and sustainably, and we need to maintain old growth forests as they are a great weapon against climate change.

I also do not understand, as so many people visit our national forests and BLM land for hiking and backpacking that there is money that is generated for our government through permits, etc. Why are there many cuts happening to staff? Outdoor tourism is huge here, just try and visit any trail in western Washington in the summer - parking lots are overflowing with people, and the most popular trails are incredibly crowded. Cutting staff who maintain these areas will hurt these areas, causing more damage, some of which could be irreparable.

So please, as an avid hiker, a biologist and a mom who wants to see these natural areas thrive for generations, I ask you to please not increase logging old growth forests, but please make sure these areas are properly staffed.

Thank you.