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Comments: To Whom it May Concern:

The forests of the PNW are some of the most special and vital ecosystems on our planet. I am still in shock that I get to experience the beauty and peace within these mature and old-growth forests, even after living in the PNW for 10 years. It is our responsibility to live in harmony with these forests, not exploit them. Please protect mature and old-growth forests from logging. Do not raise logging limits to 120-150 years.

Logging in these delicate ecosystems will destroy the populations of wildlife like the Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet; it will also increase wildfire risk and tip humanity further into irreversible climate change. Devastating wildfires and drought will continue to be a huge part of all residents' lives on the west coast. Homes, businesses, and too many lives have all been lost as hotter and more heavily fueled wildfires continue to rage through the PNW. As more resources burn and more water is drained from already depleting freshwater sources, we need to be pushed to address the root issue, not cover it up by exploiting more, more, more. At 30 years of age I have yet to experience a drought-free year of my life. Without forests slowing precipitation and thus replenishing our groundwater during the rainy months, drought will only continue worsening.

Only intact forests have the ability to fight climate change and reduce wildfire risk. Fire is supposed to sweep through these forest ecosystems, but without prescribed burning--a traditional and cultural method of forest management by indigenous peoples to burn parts of the forest when there isn't enough fuel to burn hot and get out of control--drought, water diversion, agricultural chemical pollution, mining and logging--all of which is a detriment to forest health, forests can go decades without burning. Research confirms that this is why wildfires are now at an unprecedented scale.

Land back is more important than ever right now. Tribal stewardship can be vital in protecting and managing public land since indigenous peoples carry the knowledge of living within these ecosystems for thousands of years. I'm encouraging folks in current power positions to listen more to those who put the health of Earth's ecosystems before capitalistic interests.

Some of my fondest memories, those which shaped me to be the human I am today, are from times spent recreating in the forests that the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment #64745 plans to log. Recreation in these mature and old-growth forests, including hiking, camping, rafting, canoeing, kayaking, bird watching, picnic-ing, sitting in silence away from the hustle and bustle, and on and on, can be so grounding, rewarding, and educational for folks. It can boost people's spirits so that we as a society are healthier and more grounded in our everyday lives.

Healthy forests keep our fresh water system clean, which in turn gives us clean drinking water! Fish habitat wouldn't be healthy if there was no clean, free-flowing water. Let's highlight the dam removal along the Klamath River--an effort led by the Yurok tribe--to illustrate how salmon populations have the ability to return when rivers have the ability to flow freely through these mature and old-growth forests in the PNW. Everything is connected, everything is in ecosystem with one another. Proposing this amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan only further shows that we, the modern peoples who reside in power, are the only beings not in connection, in ecosystem with the rest of the Earth.

I am a small, organic farmer who feeds my local community without the use of chemicals, with diversity as the backbone of the farm, and who is very in tune with the environment in which I grow food. The climate is already drastically unstable. The actions that happen in our National Forests and beyond create a ripple effect through

our changing climate. Crop loss due to a late hard freeze is an annual occurrence, as is losing crops in the middle of farmers' typical busy season or farming with ample amount of shade cloth (more use of natural resources with a short lifespan and is a financial burden) to help battle the incredibly high summer temperatures. Loss of clean water to irrigate with less precipitation means that thousands of varieties our society loves to eat will be lost. My farm's goal is to create a resilient ecosystem, but this ecosystem within my 1.5 acre farm is not possible without the help of the ecosystem within the PNW's mature and old-growth forests.

Healthy forests booming with wildlife, people being able to put down roots and not worry about losing their home in a wildfire, recreating folk with the intention of enjoying their public lands, and clean free flowing water with salmon spawning year after year are all pieces of a healthy ecosystem; all of which are incredibly more important than timber sales.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment on why I do NOT approve of the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment #64745.