

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/17/2025 9:23:54 PM

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Comments: Please approve a final Northwest Forest Plan that prioritizes wildlife, climate, and old-growth forests.

For three decades, the Northwest Forest Plan has protected our mature and old-growth forests, Northern Spotted Owls, Marbled Murrelets, and other imperiled fish and wildlife on federal lands throughout the Pacific Northwest. The Forest Service is now proposing an amendment to the plan that puts logging first, placing our forests, wildlife and communities at risk.

The proposed amendment to the plan would vastly increase logging levels on mature and old growth forests and ignore the Plan's original emphasis on wildlife and habitat conservation. While the proposal is alarming I am even more concerned with the recent Trump Administration Executive Order calling for the "Immediate Expansion of Timber Production." This EO would skirt long-standing regulations like the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act and would ultimately lead to the decimation of our National Forests.

We need a strong Plan to protect our remaining mature and old-growth forests and the many imperiled species that depend on that forest habitat for survival. We also need it to protect our collective interest in clean air, drinkable water, and the climate stabilizing benefits forests provide by storing and sequestering vast amounts of carbon.

Thanks for your consideration,

Valerie Nelson