

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/17/2025 10:55:29 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am an avid hiker who grew up in Oregon. My parents took all of us hiking in the old growth forests and I just love mature forests to this day. It is with great sadness that I see the numerous clear cuts throughout the Coast Range and in the Cascades.

I also realize that a mature forest is so much more than the trees but the trees are essential for that ecosystem. In addition to trees, there are unknown fungi, one of which may be the next cure for saving human lives such as cyclosporin, the drug from fungi that allows organs transplants. That is my field of study. We have no idea how many fungi are out there much less what use they may have for humans.

Please raise the age for logging from 80 to 120 years. Do not permit salvage logging after wild fires because forest that are not salvaged regenerate much faster than those that have been salvaged. Their biodiversity must be protected. Mature forests mitigate wild fires because their thick organic layer holds water.

I hope that my children and grandchildren may have the same experiences that I did hiking through mature forest and knowing that these forests harbor unique species of birds, mammals, insects, and fungi. These forests need the Forest Service to protect them in perpetuity i.e. forever!

I suggest that the USDA Forest Service do what it takes to develop a strong forest plan that incorporates values of all of the public including tribal consultation and the needs of future generations.