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Comments: I am adamantly opposed to the U.S. Forest Service's proposal to change the Northwest Forest Plan so that it vastly increases destructive logging, especially in mature and old-growth forests. Doing so would put wildlife, clean water and air, and the climate at much greater risk.

The U.S. Forest Service is entrusted to care for PUBLIC lands, which means managing our forests in a sustainable manner and making sure there are environmental protections that benefit all, including people, plants and wildlife.

Therefore, I ask you to protect our forests by enforcing stringent rules and regulations that:

- Protect mature and old growth forests. Do not raise logging limits to 120-150 years which would be a terrible move in light of the climate change crisis, especially given these older forests do a much better job storing carbon than younger trees.
- Leave intact continuous forest that promote wildlife migration and offer essential biodiversity, while ensuring healthy streams, rivers and groundwater. Put an end to logging practices that cause landslides, stream bank degradation and reduce tree canopies.
- Ensure healthy forest habitat and stop destructive logging practices that impact endangered and threatened species such as our native trout, the Northern Spotted Owl and the Marbled Murrelet.

Do not cater to political and timber industry special interests, and protect our forests for the good of all, not just a few. We desperately need clean water and air, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation and to help fight climate change - and that can only happen by keeping the Northwest Forest Plan and the protections it offers intact and enforced.

Sincerely,

-Darcie Meihoff