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Comments: I agree with the common petition content suggestions highlighting importance of: \*\*whole forest ecosystems; \*\*critical older forest maintenance to keep up whole ecosystems; \*\*connecting wildlife habitats, also good for game species \*\*carbon sequestering in both plant matter and hugely also in the soil--both dead and living in fungal and microbial populations especially, as well as other species; and \*\*obligations and benefits from TEK Traditional Ecological Knowledge and genuine participation in planning, uses, traditional harvests, and controlled fires by Native Americans and their methods.

I would like to remind us of another "ecological service" provided especially by larger-growth, older forests which I haven't seen highlighted as much. I mean, we've also learned in recent decades that coastal-region rainforests are the first step in continent-spanning weather-system water pumps. Rainforests actually MAKE their rain, and much of the moisture they gain thereby evaporates into atmosphere and falls again as rain further inland, and so on, and so on. Without the functioning coastal rainforests to begin the process, weather and agriculture--food!--throughout the continent can be disturbed. [Peter Wohlleben's 2016 book "The Hidden Life of Trees" is one popularization and reference collection about these processes]. We who are stewards of the western forests have an obligation to ourselves, the whole continent, truly the planet, to maintain the functional mass of our forests intact and healthy for all.

Thank you for considering these issues in the Northwest Forest Plan.