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Comments: I urge the Forest Service to protect our forests and to strengthen protections for mature and old-growth forests in order to ensure the preservation of vital natural habitat, for enhanced water quality, carbon storage and resilience, and to restore and maintain functional ecosystems.

Maintaining and expanding protections for the network of forest reserves allows natural processes to flourish, ensures connectivity for wildlife, and supports the recovery of imperiled species. Any reduction in forest reserve protections would increase harmful impacts such as habitat destruction, sediment and turbidity in streams, and carbon loss, further endangering sensitive ecosystems. I ask you to please shift wildfire strategies to prioritize community safety and proven prevention measures over logging. The Forest Service must reject plans to weaken core protections of the Northwest Forest Plan. Maintaining and expanding protection for forest reserves is critical to preserving biodiversity, clean water, and the long-term climate benefits our forests provide.

As an Oregonian and as someone who has worked over a decade in conservation, I urge you to please protect and value our beloved forests. This is our home and we need to protect it for our future generations.