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Comments: I agree with the Coast Range Association's (CRA) comments on the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment DEIS. I urge you to read and consider the CRA's comments.

Although I appreciate the Forest Service for maintaining Late Successional Reserve (LSR) areas, I fully oppose future commercial timber harvest as a management practice in LSRs.

Option B's proposal to harvest stands in LSRs up to 119 years of age is the wrong direction for forest management. We should protect all of the Pacific Northwest's old growth and mature, biodiverse forests from commercial logging, including commercial post-fire salvage logging and commercial logging as a "forest management" technique.

In Pacific Northwest forests west of the Cascades, logging can create dryness and even make the land more flammable. See recent research by Millikin that shows that PNW coastal forests don't respond well to thinning, partially because it dries them out. <https://www.richmond-news.com/bc-news/fuel-thinning-compromises-coastal-forests-natural-fire-resilience-whistler-ecologist-9378786>. To protect communities and people from fire, it has proven to be more effective to provide escape routes, harden homes, and create defensible space near homes, rather than logging far out in the forest, far away from homes and structures. Part of the issue is that when you thin a forest, you do not know where the fire will land. So you will end up thinning forests that may never burn, harming ecosystems, and emitting carbon in the meantime. However, in coastal and western Pacific Northwest forests, logging causes a far worse problem - it creates the very problem you were trying to avoid in the first place - "increased wildfire potential."

Old growth trees, complex old growth ecosystems, and future old growth (mature) forests are irreplaceable. They support our water supply and generate fertile, stable soils; they support habitat and biodiversity; they help cool our local climate and stabilize our global climate, they foster precipitation, which is vital; they reduce flooding. They also support public recreation, which in turn returns far more economically to the surrounding PNW communities than commercial logging does. Historical research by John Perlin has shown that nations that destroy their forests through logging may eventually experience devastating economic and social consequences. The harvest of naturally regenerated stands in LSRs within the Siuslaw National Forest, no matter what age, will engender vigorous public opposition.