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Comments: I have been a resident of Washington State for the past 49 years, enjoying the magnificent forests and the fresh, clean air they provide. Over the years the destructive practice of clear-cutting huge sections of forested lands has been appalling.

These forests are not only beautiful but valuable as habitat of a diverse range of wildlife which includes the coho salmon in our fisheries. Collectively, this Pacific temperate rainforest is a packed biomass of living and decaying trees, shrubs, mosses and soil in volumes greater than any other eco-system on the planet! Their great importance to everyone is the carbon storing function of old-growth and mature forests that are so critical to mitigating climate change. Forests also filter and protect drinking water for communities throughout the Pacific Northwest.

For these reasons I support the Northwest Forest Plan that will protect our watersheds from destructive logging practices. Further destruction and loss of old and mature forest will hasten the deterioration of our climate and our healthy ecosystems. The Forest Service must prioritize the Tribal inclusion plans that are in Alternative B because these ancient practices had for ages allowed these forests to survive and thrive.