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Title:

Comments: The Northwest Forest Plan has been largely successful in stopping the rampant loss of old-growth forests and beginning a longterm restoration process that can only be measured in centuries, not decades.

Just 30 years into this restoration process, however, the Forest Service is proposing to upend it. The current proposed amendment to the NWFP would significantly weaken existing protections for old-growth forests and open the floodgates to more logging at precisely the same time the Forest Service is increasing timber targets, with a specific focus on the Pacific Northwest.

And recent proposed legislation and executive orders threaten to increase those targets even more.

Therefore, I strongly object to the proposed changes to the NW First Plan and appeal to you to:

- --Drop your proposal to increase the age of young forests from 80 to 120 years old in LSRs.
- --Drop your proposal to allow logging for the benefit of early seral species in LSRs.
- --Drop your proposal to use arbitrary "established by" dates of your defining old-growth on Matrix lands rather than stand age dates.
- --Stop using arbitrary timber targets to pressure agency staff to increase logging on National Forests.
- --Maintain existing protections for wildlife and watersheds in the NWFP