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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this. I'd ask the you please preserve the Northwest Forest Plan in its current incarnation to best preserve the ongoing recovery of Pacific temperate rainforest in Western Washington, Western Oregon, and Northern California from decades of abusive, runaway, and environmentally-destructive logging on our federal public lands, and strengthen protections for mature and old-growth forests to ensure habitat, water quality, and carbon storage, and please utilize mature and ancient forests to restore a functional ecosystem.

Please also maintain or expand protections for the network of forest reserves over the 24 million acres and 17 National Forests and other federal lands covered by the Northwest Forest Plan to flourish, ensure connectivity for wildlife, and support the recovery of imperiled species. As you're aware, any reduction in forest reserve protections will increase harmful impacts such as habitat destruction, sediment in streams, and carbon loss, further endangering sensitive ecosystems.

Please prioritize community safety and proven wildfire prevention measures, and end the use of the discredited argument that increased logging is a means of wildfire prevention and suppression. Please also consult with and respect the sovereignty of Tribes, support tribal co-stewardship agreements, and ensure equitable access to planning processes.

And please continue to analyze related environmental justice impacts, including the pollution of air, water, and communities resulting from logging and other resource extraction practices. A good example of these abuses is in the Oregon Coast Range, where reckless, near-unregulated logging remains so prevalent on state forest lands that wholesale watershed destruction and landslides have resulted affecting roads, property stability, residents, and communities.