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Comments: I have spent many summers recreating in the forests of eastern Oregon, including on the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman. I have found myself surrounded by large old trees and chanterelle mushrooms in July when the areas outside of the forest are completely arid, hot and dry. I have slept many nights hearing elk bugle, wondering if I did indeed hear a mountain lion scream, and listening to the sounds of pouring rain on my tent when the sky had shown no signs of rain an hour earlier.

These areas provide much needed respite from the heat for people as well as all sorts of wildlife. Protections for these areas should only be strengthened and they should certainly not be weakened.

What we need are **enforceable standards** with **measurable objectives** that protect mature and old forests, streams and water quality, wildlife, connectivity, and carbon storage.

As a RN, I know that it that clear enforceable standards and measurable objectives are key components to delivering quality patient care. We must hold ourselves and each other to these high, quantifiable standards. To care for the forest we need the same thing: clear and strong protections.

We must protect clean water by retaining and strengthening existing Riparian Management Objectives for stream habitats and water quality.

We must retain and strengthen standards to stop logging of large trees of over 20" in diameter at breast height.

Retain and strengthen the standards that protect wildlife connectivity

Retain and strengthen the standards that protect blocks of mature and old forests. Do not do away with Old Growth forest designations, as is currently proposed.

Standards for road densities should be retained, strengthened, and enforced. You can read more about the widespread degradation of streams and water quality due to roads [here](#).

I love the woods of eastern Oregon and they should be protected.