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I have hiked in the Olympic National Park, the Olympic National Forest and area State and private timberlands for over 70 years. Over this period I have observed an obvious decline in the main water sources of this region. In one lifetime two major glaciers have completely disappeared from Mt. Anderson. Many of the formerly "permanent snowfields" now only exist for a few, short months in the Springtime. As global warming continues to warm our only home planet, we must take action to slow this trend.

Natural solutions are proven remedies in many ecological challenges. For decades the timber industry sponsored television ads recommending that we all work to save our "cold, clear" rivers and streams, which start in the headwaters and side channels of our major watercourses. Continuing to log in these small non-fish-bearing streams will contribute to the warming of downstream, fish-bearing watercourses. The scientific research contained in the record of this rulemaking process clearly illustrate this relationship.

Maintaining and restoring these forest areas, including canopies, in the subject buffer areas will support the restoration of previously harvest-impacted resources and functions. Continuing to log in these important areas will continue to result in drier forests, and hence, continue to the reduction of valuable habitat, and also increase wildfire risks. Maintaining water quality and quantity in the subject buffer areas, will also contribute positively to the tree-growing capabilities of the contiguous public and private timberlands, along with the diversity, quantity and quality of wildlife and recreation assets.

With few exceptions, I support the comments entered into the record by Olympic Climate Action and Cascadia Climate Action Now, which support the scientific research in this hearing record. As a grandfather of five innocent, and very active young hikers, I hope they will have the many quality backcountry opportunities which I experienced throughout my life time.