

January 30, 2024

Dear Northwest Forest Plan Review Team,

The mountains, forests, grasslands and canyons of the Pacific Northwest are national treasures, and should be protected at the highest level, and passed down as heirlooms for all future generations. These priceless lands have been entrusted in great part to the United States Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. As time marches on, there will continue to be constant threats placed upon these sacred lands. Threats from catastrophic fires and global warming, threats from logging, mining and development, threats from overuse by an ever-increasing number of people seeking to escape and find nature. Decisions made now can lead us on a path of preservation, or a road of degradation. We must choose wisely.

I advocate on the side of preservation in matters of environmental protection in the Northwest and Alaska. I believe mankind has already encroached too far, and that now is the time for stronger protections and restoration. Once lost, it will be next to impossible to regain. Federal lands have been decreasing every year, and I believe we must reverse this trend, and expand federal land borders wherever possible, and create buffer zones around our Wilderness Areas and National Parks to further protect these areas from encroachment and development. I believe we need to link protected lands so there is safe passage for wildlife, and not allow a patchwork of lands that are cutoff from each other by roads, fences, private property and towns.

Stronger protection of these areas will sustain more healthy ecosystems, and should focus on old growth forests, wildlife, streams, rivers and fish habitat, as well as recreation and public awareness.

One of the key principles in this ongoing effort for protection requires building a strong work force that is able to carry out the management plan. This requires enough resources to consistently recruit, hire, train, house, and retain teams of professionals and volunteers that are all supporting and working toward the overall mission.

During my lifetime, I've witnessed the continued increase in people seeking recreation on public lands. It started with requiring permits to enter parks, and to park at trailheads and then snow park areas, and fees to climb the major peaks, and now there are limits and lotteries for backcountry permits in many areas. I understand and support the need to limit the number of people in high use backcountry areas to prevent overuse and still allow solitude. I would also like to see that hunting, fishing and grazing have more strict limits, permits and fees, restricted use of all-terrain vehicles, motorized boats, e-bikes, and stiffer penalties for use of drones and trail cameras to hunt.

Management of our public lands has never been easy, and now with more visitors that cause more wildfires, and more restrictions, there is a big need for additional staffing and resources. I have witnessed first hand the homeless camps that have cropped up on our federal lands. I have seen the piles of illegal dumping along forest roads. I have counted numerous vehicles at trailheads without parking permits, and the growing fear to leave your vehicle at a trailhead because of routine break-ins and vandalism. My son's car window was recently broken out at a popular trailhead. I have reported some of these to our local Ranger Station, but they tell me they don't have the staff to monitor or control these camps and trailheads. More needs to be done.

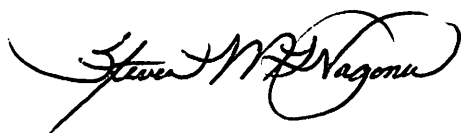
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I have seen what I suspect to be illegal tree cutting for firewood, and have read numerous articles of poachers shooting deer, bear, and other wildlife, as well as illegal fishing. More federal law enforcement is needed to help manage our forests and grasslands.

As an avid hiker, I seek the quiet solitude of nature in our national forests and wilderness areas. It is very peaceful to walk through wild places, and listen to the birds, the wind, and rushing waters. Over the past 5-10 years there has been an increase in mountain bikes riding on these trails (even when there is a posted sign that shows no bicycles). I have confronted a number of them, but I'm afraid the problem has become worse, especially with the new wave of e-bikes. I consider these e-bikes as motorized vehicles that have no place on backcountry trails. These bikes are causing major trail damage and erosion, and are a safety issue for hikers on the trail. I agree there should be designated places for mountain bikes to enjoy riding on trails, but there should also be designated areas where bikes are not allowed on the trails, such as the most popular scenic trails, the Pacific Crest Trail, and certainly all wilderness areas.

In closing, I would like to advocate for more staff as a key part of the Northwest Forest Plan, and would like to recognize those people who work to protect and preserve our public lands. These individuals are providing a great service for our states and country. Many of them seek a career to conserve and safeguard our wild places, and their efforts make a huge difference. Most of them don't do it for the money, they do it as a labor of love. Many are volunteers, and I applaud and support all of these caretakers of our cherished lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven M. Wagoner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" and last name "Wagoner" clearly legible, and "M." as a middle initial.

Steven M. Wagoner  
64994 E. Mountain Meadow Lane  
Rhododendron, Oregon 97049

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$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{X}) = \prod_{i=1}^n \mathcal{L}(y_i|\mathbf{X}_i)$   
 $\mathcal{L}(y_i|\mathbf{X}_i) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{(y_i - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$   
 $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{X}) = \frac{1}{\sigma^n (2\pi)^{n/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \mu)^2\right)$

## CONCLUSION

DOI: 10.1002/chem

1. *Содержание* – перечень вопросов, подлежащих рассмотрению на заседании, с указанием ответственных за подготовку материалов к рассмотрению.

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1. The first step is to identify the problem. In this case, the problem is that the system is not working properly.

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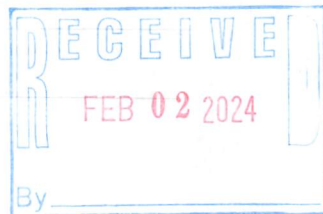
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**Habitat  
Restoration**

