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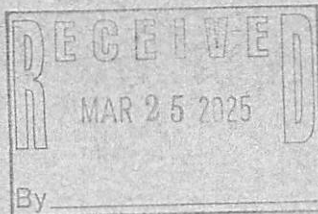
USFS Region 6

USDA - Forest Service
1220 S.W. 3RD Ave.
Suite G015
Portland, OR 97204

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~~R.D. 36CS, 97208-3623~~



note: this is the 3RD attempt to get this package delivered

Dear Northwest Forest Plan Amendment Team,

Please accept these comments on behalf of members of the wider Oregon community. Our organization, Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics and Ecology, hosted a public education event to inform people about the NWFP amendment process.

Each of these letters in this packet is a unique, individual comment letter. We provided this template to support new folks in learning about the public comment process, but each contains unique values and insights from the writers.

Each letter contains the individual names and contacts for the comment submitters as well.

Thank you for your time,

Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology (FUSEE)

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1. The first part of the report is a summary of the work done during the year.

2. The second part is a detailed account of the work done during the year.

3. The third part is a summary of the work done during the year.

4. The fourth part is a summary of the work done during the year.

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16. The sixteenth part is a summary of the work done during the year.

Northwest Forest Plan Amendment Public Comment

The following comments are my views on the key issues and impacts that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) failed to fully analyze or disclose. In brief, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) needs the Final EIS to propose forward-looking forest management policies, plans, and projects suitable for a future with

clean air and water,

1.

CLIMATE CHANGE and MATURE/OLD-GROWTH FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

Mature/Old-Growth (M/OG) forests are a natural means of absorbing and storing carbon to mitigate climate change. They are more valuable for climate recovery and the many ecosystem services they provide than they are as 2. lumber in commodity markets. The DEIS wrongly proposes to continue commercial logging that is the primary threat to the ecological role and special values of M/OG forests.

The gravest threat to M/OG forests is a revival of commercial logging under the 3. Falre claim that logging will protect rural communities from wildfire or restore forest resilience. The DEIS must analyze the vital, irreplaceable role of M/OG forests in mitigating climate change and propose permanent protection from logging in all existing M/OG stands.

TRIBAL INCLUSION and FIRE RESILIENCE

Indigenous cultural burning was, and still is, a vital means of sustaining resilience in fire-adapted forest and grassland ecosystems. Settler-colonialism forcibly removed Native peoples and prohibited their land stewardship practices, causing immense harm to

4. Native Cultures. The DEIS failed to authorize revitalization of Indigenous cultural burning across the widest landbase range in the national forests in accordance with traditional ecological knowledge. The DEIS failed to fully analyze or disclose the ongoing and escalating impacts of wildfire suppression and fire exclusion.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

As a matter of environmental justice, Tribal representatives and Indigenous perspectives must have greater influence in the NWFP than special interest groups who represent

5. wealthy corporations. The DEIS failed to adequately analyze the beneficial social, economic, and ecological effects of bringing back Indigenous cultural burning and other traditional land stewardship practices in comparison with the negative effects of continued commodity resource extraction and development.

COMMUNITY SOCIOECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

The economy of the Pacific Northwest and other rural western regions has diversified over the last 30 years, and logging, grazing, or mining are no longer the dominant industries. Rural communities that formerly depended on resource extraction jobs are struggling, but there is tremendous potential for sustainable jobs in 6. Climate smart Forestry that the DEIS failed to fully analyze and disclose.

In conclusion, in the midst of intersecting climate, wildfire, and biodiversity crises, the DEIS for the NWFP failed to focus on 7. Good fire is ecological burns to help protect communities and restore ecosystem resilience. The FEIS must address the Cultural burns current flaws in analysis and disclosure of impacts, and failed to convey that the USFS is genuinely promoting a paradigm shift to fix the flaws of its past mismanagement of our forests.

Sincerely,

Keith Oldham

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