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Title:

Comments: Dear Regional Foresters Jacqueline Buchanan and Jennifer Eberlien,
Please accept this comment as part of the first scoping period for the proposed Northwest Forest Plan amendment. I am a native Oregonian, and have a three-generation family lineage deeply rooted in the Pacific Northwest, the forests here hold a significance beyond words, offering a place for peace and meaning deeper than anywhere else I have ever traveled in this world. The old-growth moss-covered limbs welcome you into these trails, the paths tell a story that only your feet and heart seem to understand, creating a sanctuary unmatched in its depth of meaning. The way the weather changes in an instant yet remains familiar under the canopy protecting overhead imparts a sense of familiarity that goes beyond the feeling.

These forests are more than mere landscapes but a place for medicine, food, for wisdom with more profound depth than can be understood in one lifetime. Protecting these gifts in the way they protect us is not only a responsibility but the natural step of being stakeholders within this precious delicately balanced ecosystem. Safeguarding these forests is our role. My attachment to the rights and access to these old-growth forests, BLM lands, national forests, wilderness areas, and natural spaces alike in an untampered way are drastically important to me, and the the shared individuals in my community.

The value of the biodiversity of these ecosystems, especially the Mt. Hood Wilderness where I grew up and frequently recreate, remaining intact and continuing to have the ability to heal itself from previous damage is beyond crucial to our community. From the water that flows into our city, our health of our salmon and their spawning grounds, the thriving life of plants, animals, and fungi life, and especially our incredible recently discovered marmot and wolverine population and their habitat- these elements are intricately woven and interconnected into a fabric bigger than us in ways we're still yet learning. The intersection of science and the spiritual connection can provide the knowledge we've been seeking if we support and protect these systems allowing them to exist and thrive at their fullest capabilities, as well as work to restore the biological and ecological complexity of the ecosystems we have left, such as ending clear-cut logging.

As a volunteer trail worker, backpacker, medicinal plant forager, outdoor photographer, and advocate for sustainable protection of what remains of our beautiful Pacific Northwest forests during this amendment to the Northwest forest plan, my commitment extends beyond personal recreation. I am actively involved in the outdoor community and stand as an advocate for the rights of these forests from a political and ecological standpoint, recognizing their rights that may have been overlooked and not yet been considered.

My concerns encompass climate change, conservation of old growth, and the imperative of tribal inclusion. Please consider the new plan changes to include:

- Commitment to protection guidelines on mature and old-growth forests to address our climate and biodiversity crisis. Slowing the consequence of climate change and addressing the climate and biodiversity crisis threatening our communities by protecting mature state, private, and public forests and leaving remaining old-growth.

- Restrictions and limitations on clear-cutting native stalls, and Impose clear-cutting protection on private land.

- Strengthen proposed protection guidelines for old growth outside of reserves. Ending old-growth clear-cut logging on private and public land, and limited clear-cutting in native stalls. Strengthen logging protection for mature trees across federal lands.

- Inclusion of tribal perspectives, integrating tribal perspectives in decision-making processes, including tracking

these metrics. Advocate for better success metrics that incorporate a Tribal perspective.

- Tree Regulation Protection for urban canopy in public and private areas for the city to establish a healthy mature urban forest to protect residents from excess heat and pollution.

- Fire Resilience, The Government provides funding for a "defensible" space. Allowing beneficial fire practices back into ecosystems to enhance fire resilience, and allow a space for controlled natural burning fires.

- Investment in forest-based science research and development (fungi/mycelium) allocates government resources towards advancing forest research exploring its potential for medicinal health benefits and fostering sustainable communities.

By advocating for these considerations, we work towards a Northwest Forest Plan amendment that not only preserves our natural heritage but also respects the unique perspectives and wisdom embedded in these ancient landscapes. Slowing the consequence of climate change by leaving old growth for future generations. Please help us protect the things we're grateful for.