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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Northwest Forest Plan Amendment

22-February-2025

My name is [redacted], and please accept this comment on the draft EIS for the proposed Northwest Forest Plan amendment.

Any amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan should recognize the wide variety of social and economic benefits National Forests provide for local communities and the region as a whole[mdash]not just timber, but also clean water, climate stability, native plant and wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation.

Fire resistance and resilience can be bolstered by preserving and restoring mature and old-growth forests. Fuels and fire management should focus on the home ignition zone and on non-commercial treatments and beneficial fire use, not commercial logging. Commercial logging for fuel reduction can negatively impact wildlife habitat, remove large fire-resistant trees, introduce invasive species, and create hazardous fire conditions. Standards must ensure that fuel reduction is both needed and effective before logging is allowed.

The Forest Service must reject plans to weaken core protections of the Northwest Forest Plan, and do the following:

- * Strengthen protections for mature and old-growth forests to ensure habitat, water quality, and carbon storage, and recruit more mature and old forests to restore a functional ecosystem. Much too much old-growth and mature forest has been removed already and many native birds, plants, fish, and are endangered. Our northwest forests are surreally quiet. Bird and wildlife populations are greatly diminished., Recovery requires habitat restoration and diversity, old growth and new.
- * Maintain or expand protections for the network of forest reserves to allow natural processes to flourish, ensure connectivity for wildlife, and support the recovery of imperiled species. Any reduction in forest reserve protections would increase harmful impacts such as habitat destruction, sediment in streams, and carbon loss, further endangering sensitive ecosystems.
- * Consult with Tribes and communities. Meet and provide resources to support their full participation in decision-making. The Forest Service must support co-stewardship agreements, cultural burning practices, first food harvesting, and youth education while ensuring equitable access to planning processes. Pairing these components with the Forest Service's plan for weakened environmental protections is a false choice manufactured by the agency.
- * Address environmental justice and climate change by analyzing impacts on air, water, and communities and ensuring fair, sustainable working conditions.
- * Shift wildfire strategies to prioritize community safety and proven prevention measures over logging.

We need a strong forest plan that incorporates modern science and public values, robust and honest tribal and communities consultation, and the needs of future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

ATTACHMENT-LETTER TEXT: Northwest Forest Plan Amendment KF 22Feb2025.docx; this is the same

content that is coded in text box; it was originally included as an attachment