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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I would like to comment on the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment. I own property in Deschutes National Forest, Oregon. The land adjacent to my property is managed by the US Forest Service which is why the amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan is very important to me. Since the Notice of Intent for the amendment was made, I have attended 2 public webinars and recently attended the public information meeting in Sisters, Oregon on March 12. In addition, I have read and studied various public information handouts along with the information provided on the NWFP Amendment Project Page.

Since climate change has become a serious issue, the current NWFP does not do enough to protect our forests and communities from devastating fires that are more and more common. When the plan was established in 1994, there was not as much evidence of climate change as there is now.

Of the 4 proposed amendment alternatives, I support Alternative B. This alternative expands fuel management, prescribed burning, and restoration efforts to reduce wildfire. It focuses on retaining old growth across all land-use allocations while using ecological forestry to restore forest health. And it aligns timber harvest with restoration needs.

I have attached 6 photos taken in Deschutes National Forest, Oregon. They show a ponderosa pine forest near Highway 20 and the junction of Road 14 to Camp Sherman in Central Oregon. They show a well managed forest where trees have been thinned, ladder fuels removed, and a combination of mechanical mowing and control burns have occurred. It was not far from this location that gave firefighters the upper hand on the 2020 Green Ridge fire. It was reported that because of the way the forest had been treated years before, this fire slowed and was put out before spreading to near by communities.

In addition, I believe there is an urgent need to speed up the process to managing our forests as described in Alternative B. More needs to be done to protect our forests, wildlife and communities from devastating wildfires.

ATTACHMENT-Figure/Picture: IMG_6472.jpeg; Photograph of pine forest with no mid-story

ATTACHMENT-Figure/Picture: IMG_6473.jpeg; Photograph of pine forest with no mid-story

ATTACHMENT-Figure/Picture: IMG_6474.jpeg; Photograph of pine forest with no mid-story

ATTACHMENT-Figure/Picture: IMG_6477.jpeg; Photograph of pine forest with no mid-story

ATTACHMENT-Figure/Picture: IMG_6478.jpeg; Photograph of pine forest with no mid-story

ATTACHMENT-Figure/Picture: IMG_6480.jpeg; Photograph of pine forest with no mid-story