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First name: Brent

Last name: Borden

Organization: Bellingham Foodscapes

Title: Owner

Comments: To Those Left Standing at the Forest Service-Both the OG Trees and Its Employees,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Northwest Forest Plan amendment. As someone who has spent countless days backpacking and fishing on Forest Service lands, I've experienced firsthand the immense value these forests provide-for recreation, biodiversity, clean water, and climate resilience.

I also had the privilege of working in vegetation research for Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA). Few things are more meaningful than gathering data to understand and protect these landscapes. That experience reinforced my belief that mature and old-growth forests must be preserved, not logged under the guise of management.

The original Northwest Forest Plan was designed to last 100 years, and we must strengthen, not weaken, its protections. While Alternative B includes important Tribal inclusion components, they should not be tied to increased logging of older forests. The greatest threat to these ecosystems is not fire but logging, which fragments habitat, reduces carbon storage, and disrupts watershed health. Fire management should focus on home safety, prescribed burns, and non-commercial thinning-not cutting large, fire-resistant trees.

The Amendment Must:

? Strengthen protections for mature and old-growth forests to safeguard wildlife, water, and carbon storage.

? Maintain and expand forest reserves to restore ecosystem function and connectivity, reducing habitat fragmentation that disrupts migratory species.

? Support genuine Tribal consultation and co-stewardship, including cultural burning and first food harvesting, without tying these efforts to weaken environmental protections.

? Increase funding for modern fire and forestry research while proactively implementing prescribed burns in second-growth forests and selective thinning in overstocked young stands to enhance resilience, reduce fuel loads, and promote ecosystem health.

The Northwest Forest Plan should be enhanced, not eroded. Our forests, wildlife, and future generations depend on it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brent Borden

Owner of Bellingham Foodscapes

ATTACHMENT-Letter text: Northwest Forest Plan Amendment\_BB Comment.pdf; this is the same content that is coded in text box; it was also included as an attachment