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Comments: Please see attached 9,663 comments from Center for Biological Diversity supporters urging you to strengthen and expand the Northwest Forest Plan to preserve forests, wildlife, and watersheds.

Protect our forests and communities by strengthening the Northwest Forest Plan

I reject the proposed action because it fails to protect the Pacific Northwest's biodiversity and ecosystems. The proposed action would substantially weaken the Northwest Forest Plan's ecosystem and wildlife protections by allowing logging in more than 800,000 acres of previously protected forest stands that are more than 80 years old and creating new loopholes to allow the logging of older trees that do remain protected. This significant increase in logging ignores the Forest Service's duty to protect species listed under the Endangered Species Act, and it would drive northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets, salmonids, and other old-growth dependent species toward extinction. Instead of increasing logging, the Forest Service must protect all remaining mature and old-growth forest in the plan area to preserve ecosystems, save more carbon-storing trees, and improve fire resilience. I oppose the Forest Service's exploitation of wildfire fear to allow logging that could actually reduce the landscape's resilience to wildfire. The logging that could occur pursuant to the proposed Action and Alternative D under the guise of "fuels reduction" largely represents a handout to the logging industry and could make wildfires worse by removing older, fire-resilient trees. It would also harm biodiversity and watersheds. While dry, fire-prone forests may at times benefit from interventions, those interventions are already permitted under the Northwest Forest Plan. The Forest Service should focus its limited resources on logging small, young trees in commercial plantations nearest communities, on prescribed burning, and on promoting community resilience through home hardening. The Forest Service should modify and select Alternative C to better protect ecosystems, increase carbon storage, and meaningfully incorporate Tribes into forest management. While Alternative C is more protective of ecosystem function, it should be modified to include the same robust commitments to Tribal stewardship contained in the other action alternatives. Alternative C should also be modified to prohibit post-fire salvage logging, which harms an ecosystem's regeneration processes, pollutes water, removes important habitat features, and reduces carbon storage. Salvage logging should be prohibited in all late-successional reserves except in the rare circumstance where it's warranted, such as for the removal of roadside hazards. The Northwest Forest Plan is critical to the health of ecosystems and human communities, and any amendment must maintain and strengthen its ecosystem-based conservation goals while meaningfully incorporating Tribes' perspectives and respecting their sovereignty. The extinction and climate crises we face demand nothing less. I urge the Forest Service to use a transparent, science-based approach that reflects public values, Tribal perspectives, and the interests of future generations.

Attachment CenterforBiologicalDiversity-NorthwestForestPlanAmendment64745-9663Comments.xlsx includes copies of the letter text above, 9,663 names/signors and contact information as well as the following Form Plus text.

As a biologist, I am opposed to the proposed plan because it does not adequately protect previously protected forests and would violate the terms of the ESA. Alternatiave D threatens biodiversity and older trees. Instead of giving more logs to the forest industry, you should be thinning younger forest in the wildland-urban interface. Alternative is much closer to the kind of protections you should be planning. However, it should prohibit all logging in last- successional reserves. It should also prohibit post-fire salvage logging beause of it its impact on fragile areas and increasing the potential for water flashing off the site. Even in the face of administration threats, I urge you to continue and strenghten conservation goals and your committment to ecosystem-based management of our forests.

Because of the unnatural, destructive forest fires driven by climate change that have ravaged the West, destroying immense areas of forests and releasing huge amounts of carbon into the atmosphere, we need to urgently protect the standing forests that are left and that are our only defense against climate change. We are at ground zero in the fight against climate change. We need more protection for forests and the wildlife that depend on it - not less. Where are animals supposed to go when you sinfully destroy the places they need to live.? This isn't the 1850's anymore. Wildlife are being wiped out, their habitats destroyed. Almost 70% of all wildlife worldwide has been wiped off the face of the earth since only 1970. That's only 55 yrs!

Now that our Fearless Leader, he of ignorance of anything more wooded than the edge of a golf fairway, has called for the destruction of millions of trees across the country, it is time for you to live up the the ideals of the U.S. Forest Service and quit acting like a timber brokerage firm. As some of you in the forest service must know, the forests that are slated to be destroyed are home of a plethora of flora and fauna, many of which are already facing precipitous declines in population numbers, including many species, across taxa, already listed as threatened or endangered, with many more being considered and more still awaiting review. This proposal for the wanton destruction, is ill considered and will result in not only the decline and decimation of species, but will result in a host of other problems, from flooding to loss of clean rivers, reducing the chances that the surrounding lands will be worth any kind of 'development' or agricultural use. This is, quite simply, an end run around the Northwest Forest Plan to satisfy the whim one man. Ouch!

I am writing as an American family physician and public health/ environmental protection and endangered species protection advocate that is very concerned about ensuring full protection for our environment and our Old Growth Forests in the Northwest and the endangered spotted owls and marbled murrelets who depend upon the ability to access these trees to survive. At this time, I extend my appreciation and thank you for taking action to amend the Northwest Forest Plan, which remains one of the most important pieces of forest management policy in the United States! I strongly support Alternative B of the proposed amendment, which draws from a diverse pool of consensus recommendations and the best science available to update the plan for the 21st century. I appreciate the fact that the proposed Alternative B will ensure that input from all voices will be examined including Tribes, rural communities, scientists and forest workers and use the best science available to update the Northwest Forest Plan. These updates will ensure that the forests of the Northwest remain healthy and abundant for future generations to come!

LOGGING WOULD INCREASE DANGER OF FIRES BECAUSE WEEDS THAT WILL REPLACE TREES WILL CATCH FIRE FASTER AND BURN FASTER. REMOVING NON-NATIVE PLANTS IS THE WAY TO REDUCE MAJOR FIRES. NATIVE AMERICANS KNOW HOW TO PROTECT THE LAND BY DOING CONTROLLED BURNS. THIS PLACE IS A NATIONAL TREASURE AND NEEDS TO BE PROTECTED NOT DEGRADED AND DESTROYED BY LOGGING.

While dry, fire-prone forests may at times benefit from interventions, those interventions are already permitted under the Northwest Forest Plan.

I did work as a seasonal employee monitoring Spotted Owls, and heard Marbled Murrelet in the Wynooche drainage only to be told they didn't come that far from water. Later when the forest service began to monitor for them did it turn out I was correct! Both species make use of true old growth forest to nest and it is imperative these forests be protected.

The northern spotted owl habitat is best suited to old-growth Douglas firs, 100 to 200 years old. Unfortunately, these old-growth forests are also highly valued by the timber industry. Cutting the old-growth trees threatens

these key nesting grounds and leads to a nearly 4% annual reduction in species population. The US Fish and Wildlife Service listed northern spotted owls as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, and it is critical this remains.

What is needed in Our Forests is the cleaning of underbrush, invasive species & culling of young trees that are too close together. Examples of this are where burnt areas were over seeded by airplanes. This led to crowded trees fighting for sunlight. Grazing would be another example of depleting native grass species leaving open soil to be filled in by aggressive plants that contribute to ground fuel. Working with Native Americans who understand & implement good management practices would be a good place to start. Many states have found this alliance a sound way to protect Our Forests.

The Forest Service should not be focused solely on the wishes and profits of logging companies. The Forest Service must include provision for MY values, also, which include the Forest Service's duty to protect species listed under the Endangered Species Act and to provide the public with substantial areas of Natural forest. Increased logging would drive northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets, salmonids, and other old-growth dependent species toward extinction. Instead of increasing logging, the Forest Service must protect all remaining mature and old-growth forest in the plan area to preserve ecosystems, save more carbon-storing trees, and improve fire resilience--older, larger trees are more fire-resilient.

I AM EXCITED TO SEE the proposed action because it ACTUALLY to protect the Pacific Northwest's biodiversity and ecosystems. The proposed action would substantially STRENGTHEN the Northwest Forest Plan's ecosystem and wildlife protections by allowing logging in more than 800,000 acres of previously protected forest stands that are more than 80 years old and creating new OPPORTUNITIES to allow the logging of older trees that do remain protected. This significant increase in logging FULLFILLS the Forest Service's duty to protect species listed under the Endangered Species Act, and it would STRENGTHEN northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets, salmonids, and other old-growth dependent species toward STABILITY. Instead of DEcreasing logging, the Forest Service must ALLOW all remaining mature and old-growth forest in the plan area to UTILIZE ecosystems, REPLANT more carbon-storing trees, and improve fire resilience. I FULLY SUPPORT the Forest Service's UNWARRANTED wildfire fear AND to allow logging that could actually reduce the landscape's resilience to wildfire. The logging that could occur pursuant to the proposed Action and Alternative D under the IMPORTANT WORK of "fuels reduction" largely represents a REASONABLE APPROACH to the logging industry and could make wildfires MINIMAL by removing older, fire-resilient trees. It would also INCREASE biodiversity and watersheds. While dry, fire-prone forests may at times benefit from interventions, those interventions are already permitted under the Northwest Forest Plan. The Forest Service should focus its limited resources on logging ALL trees in commercial plantations nearest communities, on prescribed burning, and on promoting community resilience through LANDSCAPE hardening. The Forest Service should NOT modify and select Alternative C to WEAKEN ecosystems, DEcrease carbon storage, and meaningfully incorporate Tribes into forest management. While Alternative C is more protective of ecosystem function, it should NOT be modified to include the same robust commitments to Tribal stewardship contained in the other action alternatives. Alternative C should NOT be modified to prohibit post-fire salvage logging, which HELPS an ecosystem's regeneration processes, pollutes water, removes important habitat features, and INCREASES carbon storage. Salvage logging should be STRONGLY ENCOURAGED in all late-successional reserves in the circumstance where it's warranted, such as for the removal of roadside hazards. The Northwest Forest Plan is critical to the health of ecosystems and human communities, and any amendment must maintain and strengthen its ecosystem-based conservation goals while meaningfully incorporating Tribes' perspectives and respecting their sovereignty. The FAKE extinction and climate crises we face demand nothing less. I urge the Forest Service to use a transparent, science-based approach that reflects public values, Tribal perspectives, and the interests of future generations.

I realize the Forest Service was designed to care about the forest economy, but it was never designed to keep

billionaires happy with their Wall Street investments. Our forests are not farms, they are vital to our health. They are our lungs and are critical habitats. And, if your and other agencies are smart will help in our concerns about mitigating climate change. So much of our forest are shipped to China to be processed into cheap crap like Ikea furniture. So please don't cry housing shortage to me. Just do your job and do it well. The Northwest Forest Plan is critical to the health of ecosystems and human communities, and any amendment must maintain and strengthen its ecosystem-based conservation goals while meaningfully incorporating Tribes' perspectives and respecting their sovereignty. The extinction and climate crises we face demand nothing less. I urge the Forest Service to use a transparent, science-based approach that reflects public values, Tribal perspectives, and the interests of future generations.

Updating the Northwest Forest Plan should be done by including updated information and silvicultural science, not political pressure to increase profits for a few industries

I am a wildlife rehabilitationist and have had the honor of caring for 3 Spotted owls in 39 years. These are extremely reclusive owls and they need Old growth forests to survive

Please immediately implement robust rules/laws to preserve and protect the Northwest Forest Plan. As a citizen of WA State I am vitally concerned that our forests, wildlife, and water be conserved and expanded. The timber industry is only concerned with taking our public lands for private profit[mdash][mdash]they must be stopped. Our Tribal Indigenous people must be included in any projects.

I live part time on the Olympic Peninsula, and help manage large forested properties owned by a local Land Trust. This includes monitoring wildlife use. I am also well aware of fire management plans both from my work in Washington and from living in California. In particular, I have read studies by Dr. Chad Hanson that persuasively argue that aggressive management of forests in the name of fire protection are counterproductive and severely negatively impact forest ecology. Moreover, practices that are designed for dry California forests are absolutely not applicable to the much wetter forests in the Pacific Northwest.

I am a voting US citizen. I was born in Ohio to American citizens. My grandfather's family was a founding family of New York City. I am speaking on behalf of those that have no voice and those flora and fauna that we share the world with. I reject the proposed action noted above because the proposed action would substantially weaken the Northwest Forest Plan's ecosystem and wildlife protections by allowing logging in more than 800,000 acres of previously protected forest stands that are more than 80 years old and creating new loopholes to allow the logging of older trees that do remain protected. Like WTF? How much do you destroy and in whose name? What's considered a 'fine number'? What are you leaving for future generations? NOTHING.

LOGGING WOULD INCREASE DANGER OF FIRES BECAUSE WEEDS THAT WILL REPLACE TREES WILL CATCH FIRE FASTER AND BURN FASTER. REMOVING NON-NATIVE PLANTS IS THE WAY TO REDUCE MAJOR FIRES. NATIVE AMERICANS KNOW HOW TO PROTECT THE LAND BY DOING CONTROLLED BURNS. THIS PLACE IS A NATIONAL TREASURE AND NEEDS TO BE PROTECTED NOT DEGRADED AND DESTROYED BY LOGGING.

Habitat, not mere fuel. Otherwise, remove houses made of dead, highly flammable wood. Keep ecosystems intact to be fire resilient and not compound the destructive aspects of fire by removing nutrients, compacting the soil, increasing solar radiation, altering hydrology, removing larger more fire resistant trees, providing entrance and spread of invasives that increase fire-return intervals, etc. Plantations are not healthy forests, so cease replacing native forest with these even-aged monocultures. Allow forests time to age back into old-growth, to develop the most fire-resistant characteristics. Quit demonizing the integral understory where most biodiversity resides. Reject the proposed action for the health of the land.

Please consider the importance of biodiversity and all the habitats that are interlinked before making changes to

the Northwest Forest Plan. Forestry management can be more careful, precise and inclusive of new science backed research which serves to protect our fisheries and all interconnected wildlife trophic levels, communities and indigenous peoples who rely on clean water downstream for their livelihoods and cultural traditions. Old growth and remnant forests are home to many species who rely on stable multi layered domiciles in order to reproduce and contribute to ecosystem health. These stable environments are the very underpinnings of healthy water ways in which our fisheries depend. The destructive forces inherent to logging the old stable forests create unstable conditions in which erosion occurs and riparian zones are consequentially destroyed.

As I visit Forest Service lands, I worry that now that our administration is all about profit we will slowly lose our forest habitats entirely. Logging in the name of 'thinning' is one proposal I've seen that dries out the forest and reduces diversity. We can't afford to lose these carbon sequestering wildlife protective lands

It seems that both the comedically named 'Fix Our Forests Act' and the recent closing of our National Parks are to be used to allow the GQP/KKK/Christo Fascist Party members to use those two actions to sell the abundant timber, i.e. the forests of trees, that make up the National Parks and National Forests to the wood pellet industry. In other words, the GQP/KKK/Christo Fascist Party members intend to have the trees in our National Parks and our National Forests taken down and sold to a wealthy corporation in exchange for MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY because the ONLY THING the GQP'ers value is money. Nothing else. Just imagine how many species of wildlife we will lose as a result of this ignorant plan and the fact that we will lose this planet as well and all life on it because of their insatiable greed for more and more and more MONEY.

One example of this exploitation of wildfire fear focuses on Green Ridge near Sisters, Or. A field trip to the proposed logging to support the timber industry revealed multiple areas far away from any population center where the forest is clearly healthy as analyzed by multiple environmental/ forest ecologists. These areas are predominately mature ponderosa pines with a diverse and NOT overgrown ecosystem!

While Alternative C is more protective of ecosystem function, it should be modified to include the same robust commitments to Tribal stewardship contained in the other action alternatives. At this time, I thank you for your consideration of my letter. To ensure full protection for the Northwest Old Growth Forests, and the endangered spotted owls and marbled murrelets who depend upon access to these trees for their survival, I very much urge you to please consider inclusion of certain elements from Alternative D in the final plan. Namely, I support inclusion of the proposals to have Landscape Scale Restoration approved by Forest Supervisors, to make hazardous fuel projects in Wildland-Urban Interface exempt from Survey & Manage Requirements and to adopt the Wildfire Management Zone approach.