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Organization:

Title:

Comments: March 17, 2025

Dear Regional Forester Jacque Buchanan,

My name is [Redacted]

I have been an outdoor enthusiast since I was a child. I am member of Great Old Broads for Wilderness and Oregon Natural Desert Association.

Please accept my comments on the draft EIS for the proposed Northwest Forest Plan amendment.

These forests are important to all. An intact forest ecosystem helps local communities and economies, quality of life, clean water sources, recreational opportunities, connected fish and wildlife habitat, and carbon storage.

I'm concerned that the proposed changes to the plan

- * Weakens protections for the regions' forest,

- *Weakens protection for clean water for communities and habitat,

- *Weaken protections for mature and old growth trees,

- *Weakens protections for wildlife & imperiled species,

- *Weakens protection of habitat and habitat connectivity

- *Reduces resources promoting biodiversity,

- *Reduces capacity of carbon storage

- *Interferes with tribal cultural practices.

The impacts of commercial logging, road building, and wildfire management will masticate forest, promote erosion, destroy watersheds impacting communities, habitat, salmon runs, landscape, and recreational opportunities.

Presenting logging as a means to minimize wildfires is a red herring. Mature and old trees are more resilient to wildfires. Commercial logging for fuel reduction or after wildfires worsens erosion, interferes with water quality, creates additional roads, reduces habitat, forage, migration, and biodiversity.

The first priority of reducing risk and harm from fire is at the community level. Communities' first priority is removing hazards and creating defensible space.

In conclusion, I strongly oppose this effort to significantly expand commercial logging in mature and old-growth forests across the Pacific Northwest.

Any amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan must retain, if not expand, the network of forest reserves where natural processes can maintain, and recruit habitat needed by imperiled species like salmon, spotted owls, and murrelets to persist and recover.

One of the most impactful measures the Pacific Northwest region can take to address these crises is to uphold and strengthen the Northwest Forest Plan's conservation directives. Not reduce them or open them to logging.

Attachment: NWFP_comment.docx This is the same content that is coded in text box; it was originally included as an attachment