Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/16/2025 4:00:00 AM
First name: Alexandre
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Title:
Comments: Please accept these comments on behalf of members of the wider Oregon community. Our organization, Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics and Ecology, hosted a public education event to inform people about the NWFP amendment process.

Each of these letters in this packet is a unique, individual comment letter. We provided this template to support new folks in learning about the public comment process, but each contains unique values and insights from the writers.

Each letter contains the individual names and contacts for the comment submitters as well.

Thank you for your time,

Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology (FUSEE)

Northwest Forest Plan Amendment Public Comment

The following comments are my views on the key issues and impacts that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) failed to fully analyze or disclose. In brief, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) needs the Final EIS to propose forward-looking forest management policies, plans, and projects suitable for a future with

1. The NWFP amendment should prohibit any further logging of large mature trees for any reason

CLIMATE CHANGE and MATURE/OLD-GROWTH FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

Mature/Old-Growth (M/OG) forests are a natural means of absorbing and storing carbon to mitigate climate change. They are more valuable for climate recovery and the many ecosystem services they provide than they are as 2. a commercial commodity. The DEIS wrongly proposes to continue commercial logging that is the priary threat to the ecological role and special values of M/OG forests.

The gravest threat to M/OG forests is a revival of commercial logging under the 3. FALSE claim that logging will protect rural communities from wildfire or restore forest resilience. The DEIS must analyze the vital, irreplaceable

role of M/OG forests in mitigating climate change and propose permanent protection from logging in all existing M/OG stands.

TRIBAL INCLUSION and FIRE RESILIENCE

Indigenous cultural burning was, and still is, a vital means of sustaining resilience in fire-adapted forest and grassland ecosystems. Settler-colonialism forcibly removed Native peoples and prohibited their land stewardship practices. causing immense harm to 4. Indigenous cultures and ecosystems. The DEIS failed to authorize revitalization of Indigenous cultural burning across the widest landbase range in the national forest in accordance with traditional ecological knowledge. The DEIS failed to fully analyze or disclose the ongoing and escalating impacts of wildfire suppression and fire exclusion.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

As a matter of environmental justice, the Tribal representatives and Indigenous perspectives must have greater influence in the NWFP than special interest groups who represent 5. commercial interests. The DEIS failed to adequately analyze the beneficial social, economic, and ecological effects of bringing back indigenous cultural burning and other traditional land stewardship practices in comparison with the negative effects of continued commodity resource extraction and development

COMMUNITY SOCIOECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

The economy of the Pacific Northwest and other rural western regions has diversified over the last 30 years and logging, grazing, or mining are no longer the dominant industries. Rural communities that formerly depended on resource extraction jobs are struggling, but there is tremendous potential for sustainable jobs in 6. restoration, recreation, and climate resiliency that the DEIS failed to fully analyze and disclose.

In conclusion, in the midst of intersecting, climate, wildfire, and biodiversity crises, the DEIS for the NWFP failed to focus on 7. preserving this irreplaceable resource for future generations to help protect communities and restore ecosystem resilience. The FEIS must address the current flaws in analysis and disclosure of impacts, and failed to convey that the USFS is genuinely promoting a paradigm shift to fix the flaws of its past mismanagement of our forests.

Sincerely []

ATTACHMENT-LETTER TEXT: FUSEE_Alexandre Lockfeld_20250321_NWFP_DraftEIS_Comments.pdf; this is the same content that is coded in text box; it was originally mailed in and then scanned and included as an attachment"