Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/7/2020 7:00:00 AM
First name: Okanogan Cty Commissioners
Last name: DeTro-Branch-Hover
Organization: Okanogan County Board of Commissioners
Title:
Comments: August4,2020
Kristin Bail, Forest Supervisor

Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest 215 Melody Lane
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Dear Ms. Bail,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed amendment to the Okanogan Land and Resources Management Plan standards and guidelines. It is important to keep forest plans current, effective, and relevant using adaptive management tools such as amendments.

Past events have proven the importance to manage our timber resources through various practices such as hand and machine piling, pile burning, and under burning to enhance resilience to disturbance without degrading Forest Plan Old Growth. The idea of allowing individuals to remove materials generated by treatments for firewood is beneficial in many aspects but most significantly by removing a heavily concentrated fuel load.

Wildlife (deer) habitat conditions are vital components to manage in a consistent manner that addresses disturbance regimes and stressors, such as natural succession, wildland fires, invasive species, and climate change; and the ability of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in a plan area to adapt to change. By including components that are consistent in the plan it maintains structure, function, composition and connectivity in areas to protect and help wildlife adapt to recent stressors.

The Okanogan County Board of County Commissioners are committed to land and resource management of our forests and fully support the amendment being proposed to the Forest Plan standards and guidelines to assist with managing our forests in a healthy and beneficial manner.

If you have any questions regarding this comment, please contact the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, Lalena Johns at 509-422-7105.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKANOGAN, WASHINGTON