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Comments: I am the executive director of Glacier Peak Institute where we connect youth, community and ecosystems.

GPI was founded after the tragic 2014 Oso Slide. We were created to address problems created by this plan. Yet, it took 43 people dying in a natural disaster to get help. Over the years, 100s more have died and struggled from impacts of the NWFP. We run over 600 programs per year in outdoor STEM and workforce for timber school districts, BIPOC, tribal, latino and low income housing organizations.

We do this on a tight budget with few resources.

I find it hard to read the NWFP Socio Economic Mission statement: "We must never forget the human and the economic dimensions of these problems."

In our community:

1/25 youth will be dead before 30.

Schools have been cut by ?.

Poverty has risen by 50%.

Special education rates tripled.

We are not an outlier. When I dig into other communities surrounded by National Forest Lands, I see the same statistics.

Help that was supposed to come went to train people for urban jobs. Or paid contractors from nearby cities to come and leave. Secure Rural Schools funding is redistributed based on enrollment, so despite being the poorest school district, we may get \$900. We are in a county of 800,000. It goes to schools with multimillion dollar foundations that do not serve nor care about us. The county does not care.

The goal of this plan is to protect "species while also contributing to social and economic sustainability in the region."

Our social and economic systems have collapsed.

So What are we sacrificing our youth and futures for?

Spotted Owls, Marbled Murrelets, Salmon?

All are declining. When solutions come up, we ask our rural communities to pay the price, but not the same for anything that affects urban neighborhoods or charismatic fauna.

Seattle, and Americans, are using more resources than ever. Where do these resources come from, why not locally?

In 1980, our income was about the same as Seattle's. Since then, the median household income of Seattle has increased by 300% to \$107,000

For Darrington, that income has fallen by 6% to \$33,000.... lower than any demographic in this state.

The Forest Service employees in Darrington have been cut by over 90%. When the Forest re-hires these positions in cities where they rent offices from private companies while their owned rural field offices are vacant.

The mills are owned by people in Portland. The Forest Service for the region is in Portland. Advocacy organizations are in Portland. We can have diverse stakeholders and industries without anyone having to leave the I5 corridor and set foot in the forest.

Furthermore, we can have meetings on the forest's future that requires those living in the forest to drive 3 hours roundtrip, but does not impact our urban representation on this committee or anyone who wants to speak from the wealthy urban areas to leave the city and see the forest.

The solution- for more informed science, public trust, better outcomes, improved economies and honest conversations: Bring back local independent decision making and jobs to the geographies where the communities and school districts are based in the forest.

Currently the recreation, landmanagement, fire fighting, tourism, nonprofit, legal, contractors, environmental education, research, advocacy, timber, watershed and more economies taking place in our community commute from cities for the work and then go back to the city. Our businesses and private lands are owned by Seattle, Portland, Germany and California.

The NWFP should prioritize all of these economies that are working on the forest to be based in these communities. Have us be one community.

IF the Forest Service cannot do this, consider having local organizations such as tribes to do the work. They are my neighbors and a part of the community.

The knowledge of the tribes took 100s of generations to create. Yet, the Forest Service moves employees around every few years and has them managing distant lands that they only look at on pieces of paper. This is from colonial systems of land management with power to the bureaucracy. These employees do not see the murders of covid's flying up the valleys, the barred owls in the forests or the people and schools struggling surrounded by forests.

There are paths of legal recourse to attempt to address the rights of species from the NWFP, but none for the rural forest communities. Include a plan of recourse for rural communities, otherwise you are making more empty promises.

Anyone who is supporting the NWFP (as it is) is doing so because it gives them power and disenfranchises others.

For rural communities surrounded by forest lands, the NWFP means more funerals of youth, economic struggle, more disconnection from the land and declining species in the forest where I live.

I invite you to make a choice, step out of your comfort zone, choose communities and forests