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Comments: Please accept this comment as part of the scoping period for the proposed Northwest Forest Plan amendment. I am submitting this comment because I am horrified at the way the forests in Southwestern Oregon and Southern Oregon are being managed. I value clean air and water, biodiversity, recreation, the sources of food and medicines (that are still being discovered), as well as cultural and spiritual connections. What I am seeing is wholesale destruction - clear cutting, slash burning, runoff into streams, destruction of biodiversity from loss of habitat, and the list goes on. I am furious!

The Northwest Forest Plan was instrumental in protecting much of the remaining old-growth forests in our region, ensuring that these places can continue to function as habitat for endangered species and other plants and animals associated with these forests. However, not all of the remaining old-growth was protected. Amendments to the plan must protect the remaining old-growth forests and trees outside of reserves and work to grow, expand, and connect these vital ecosystems.

The Northwest Forest Plan does not include the traditional ecological knowledge held within the varied and diverse tribes that are indigenous to the region. The ancestors of these tribes shaped and stewarded the landscapes and ecosystems now managed by the Forest Service and the Northwest Forest Plan. Incorporating Indigenous knowledge, perspectives and goals into the proposed amendment is essential - especially (but not limited to) the beneficial use of fire.

Climate change caused by a reliance on fossil fuels is projected to bring about a wide range of impacts to northwest forests and our understanding of the natural processes which shape these ecosystems. Amendments must recognize the incredible carbon capture and storage potential of northwest forests - especially forests of the western cascade and coastal ranges of Washington and Oregon. Stop selling our timber overseas! Our forests are being decimated for rich men's profit.

There are countless communities scattered across our region whose identities, cultures, and economies are linked to the forests managed under the Northwest Forest Plan. Amendments to the plan must recognize the social and economic changes that have occurred in the 30 years since the plan's creation and strive to build a workforce based on recreation, restoration and reciprocity instead of logging and mining and real estate deals.