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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for this opportunity to participate in the scoping period for the proposed Northwest Forest Plan amendment.

I love the Oregon forests for their beauty, recreation opportunities, their role in wildlife habitat and as a major source of clean water. More importantly I value the strong carbon-storing feature that our Oregon forests provide. There is no denying that our climate is changing because of excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Our National Forests are a critical part of a natural climate solution.

I not only enjoy hiking on and off trail in the Cascade Mountains. I also own and manage a small woodland plot in the foothills in the Cascades. I know the challenge on a small scale of keeping my mixed forest healthy given the challenges of hotter and drier summers, less precipitation during the winter, and increased threat from invasive bugs and weeds.

Please consider these points:

*Fire management considerations: Keeping our mature and old-growth forests intact needs to be highlighted in this amendment. Larger trees with their thicker bark are more resistant to fire than the younger groves.

*Our mature and old growth forests also provide intact canopies that shade the understory from summer's heat - slowing down evaporation and keeping the understory healthy.

Public forests needs to include the new realities of climate change. Mature and old-growth forests (trees generally over 80 years old) are a natural carbon sink and climate solution.

In crafting an amendment to the NW Forest Plan, I hope you will use a science-based approach that will take the needs of future generations in mind. We live in the new reality of a changing climate and making our forests a carbon sink is critical to the fight. We must protect the remaining mature and old-growth forests in the Cascadia bioregion and it must be written into this plan.