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First name: Alice

Last name: Shapiro

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To: Jacqueline Buchanan, US Forest Service, Regional Forester for the Pacific Northwest Region;

Please accept this comment as part of the scoping period for the proposed Northwest Forest Plan amendment. My name is Alice Shapiro. I am a 77 year old mother, grandmother, great grandmother, retired college biology professor, long time environmental and environmental justice activist, and a concerned citizen.

I am pleased that action is being taken to implement President Biden's Executive Order to protect 30% of forest/rangelands by 2030 and 50% by 2050 as a major climate solution! This will allow our forests' trees and soils to take up and store immense amounts of carbon and will help protect biodiversity and water-supply watersheds.

I am particularly against commercial logging as a primary tool in dryer forests under the guise of fuel reduction as the older trees in those forests hold the most carbon on the landscape and are the most fire resistant.

Climate change truly is the existential threat that we are currently experiencing and will continue, unfortunately to experience. The survival and protection of mature trees, forests and old growth is a very effective strategy to draw carbon out of the atmosphere and store it.

The forests of this region are important to me as a source of clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and personal renewal. I have taken my granddaughters on hikes in Pacific Northwest forests and it is very important to me to do what I can to preserve these forests for them and future generations. Also, preservation can add jobs in recreation, preservation work such as road-removal and tree planting, and monitoring.

The Pacific Northwest forests are able to take up and store more carbon than any other forests in the world. In order to preserve and enhance our Earth's ability to sequester carbon, I urge you to include President Biden's goals of 30 percent protection of mature and old growth forests by 2030 in the guiding principles of the amendment. The U.S. is a signatory to the IPCC which calls for forest protection as a major factor in reducing climate change.

Protection of mature forests and trees in the NWFP bioregion is essential to build up old growth and mature reserves to 50% stock by 2050. Oregon's old growth is patchy and comprises only 10% of our forests. Since much of this old growth is pinyon/juniper which is less helpful for carbon stores., the protection of mature forests and trees in the NWFP bioregion is essential to build up old growth and mature reserves to 50% stock by 2050.

Since BLM forests have been removed from the Forest Plan's regional reserve system any amendment to the plan should have clear and enforceable limits on logging and road impacts. The amendment must have clearly protected, connected, and redundant reserves by including all mature and old-growth forests and core wildlife areas without roads (1000 acres or larger). All old growth must be off limits for logging, even after fires.

Intact forests are cooler, less impacted by drought and more fire-resistant. Droughts are being experienced in many parts of the world and our country, including Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. We must do everything we can to protect precious water supplies.

Preserving biodiversity and connected wildlife habitat across the region should be a core principle of any forest plan revision. Please include not only threatened species, but also those pending for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

The Northwest Forest Plan must continue to be instrumental in keeping Oregon a special place through the restoration of forests and watersheds damaged by past logging and road building, recovery of economically valuable salmon runs, protection of wildlife habitat and old-growth forests, and ensuring our National Forests are part of a natural climate solution. And, also importantly-to provide respite and resources to all future generations and to help to mitigate climate chaos.

Thank you,

Alice Shapiro
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