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Organization:

Title:

Comments: This mass email has all the relevant scientific reasoning for you to consider their requests, but I just want to add my personal note asking you to please preserve existing old growth and provide for an abundance of developing old growth forests. I and many others in my community are so concerned about the destruction human society has brought to the natural world and the drastic effects human created climate change are wreaking on ecosystems worldwide. Please design your forest plan with an eye for protecting and preserving ecosystems and all the organisms that depend on them. Please preserve and create as much healthy forest as possible, safe from human threats.

Since its establishment in 1994, the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) has largely been a success story: slowing the decline of several endangered species, protecting large swaths of old-growth forests, and improving watershed conditions. However, changing temperature and precipitation patterns throughout the Pacific Northwest are creating new climate-driven threats to forest health while magnifying impacts from insects, disease, and historically large and severe wildfires. These pressures, along with increased scientific understanding and information gleaned from the NFPs monitoring protocols, highlight the need for targeted updates to the plan to maintain healthy, resilient forests.

To meet these challenges and to secure the health of these forests into the future for people and for nature the agency should take a targeted, science-based, and climate change-informed approach to amending the NFP. Specifically, the amendment should focus on:

Defining goals for sustaining ecological integrity of these national forests, as well as strategies for their achievement that are informed by an understanding of the ongoing and anticipated effects of climate change.

Improving landscape resilience to wildfire by restoring forest health where it is impaired and returning ecosystem-appropriate fire to the landscape.

Conserving existing old-growth forests and recruiting future generations of old-growth forests.

Incorporating Indigenous knowledge to help inform the agency's management goals and strategies to further the agency's general trust responsibilities.

Supporting the sustainability of communities located near these national forests by providing an array of sustainable recreational opportunities and forest products.

Thank you for undertaking this timely, targeted, and science-based update to the Northwest Forest Plan.