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First name: Helena

Last name: Birecki

Organization:

Title:

Comments: RE: Comments on the Revision of the Northwest Forest Plan

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

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the revision of the Northwest Forest Plan, NWFP, which was initiated some 30 years ago in response to the threats faced by many endangered species. I fully support protecting species from extinction, especially because we know that the health of a species can be an indicator the health and sustainability of the entire ecosystem-- and that includes human life.

Protections for old growth forest areas as well as mature forests on US Forest Service Lands is indispensable for many reasons, including to protect our national heritage and for affordable, clean water for millions of Americans. My own water district is concerned about the over-harvesting by logging companies causing problems with sedimentation, elevated water temperatures, and flow in our watershed. Current unsustainable logging practices endanger the quality, availability, and price of the water I use to drink, cook my food and wash. Please safeguard the water of those millions of Americans whose watersheds flow through federal forests.

Protecting forests is also a major climate solution both in terms of mitigation and resilience. Please fully value forest services -- water quality and quantity, flood and landslide control, temperature moderation, and more-- as you finalize the Northwest Forest Plan revision.

Key points I ask you to consider:

- All old growth must be off limits for logging even post-fire.
- Select areas of mature forest, preferably the vast majority, that are more resilient (less susceptible to insect infestation and drought and with better water resources) and make most logging off limits immediately
- Work with local Tribes to assure rules are informed by indigenous knowledge and respect treaty rights
- Immediately protect all roadless areas and steep slopes from any logging.
- Avoid new road-building and splintering of forest habitat
- Set up sidebars for any fire prevention strategies that includes protecting the larger trees by rule and protecting riparian areas on the eastside or southern forests.
- Value the fact that intact forests are cooler, less impacted by drought and more fire-resistant
- Prioritize drinking watersheds for the strongest protection to advance mature forests to become old growth.
- Increase riparian protection standards and require 70% canopy cover in all forested areas that contribute to salmon habitat both upriver and down to protect temperatures that are still dangerously high.
- Value that forested watersheds produce cleaner and larger volumes of water without flooding.
- Finally, value preserving biodiversity and connected wildlife habitat across the region as 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.

In closing, I strongly urge the USFS to protect far more mature and old-growth forest. Protecting more mature and old grown forests is essential for healthy forest ecosystems without which many species, including in the long term human beings, and even for the logging industry cannot survive. Please do your part to help mitigate and create resiliency to the climate crisis while also achieving other important goals including providing expansive recreation opportunities.

Thank you for considering these comments.