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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

Thank you for accepting this comment. The forests that surround my area of this country are beautiful. They provide water and shelter for people, fish, and wildlife. They also provide places for relaxation, recreation and job opportunities, beyond logging and other extraction industries. Our older forests provide an ecosystem for rare species and help mitigate with climate change.

In amending the NWFP, it is crucial that we ensure that these life-supporting benefits continue on in our national forests.

First, the amendment must protect and conserve our mature and old-growth trees and forests in both moist and seasonally dry forests. While the NWFP reserved many older forests in 1994, it failed to protect them all.

Second, the amendment must recognize and address the effects of climate change. Current wildfire management strategies need to be reassessed in this time of escalating wildfire activity. Management activities such as thinning and fuels reduction should only be focused in and around home sites and communities. Consultation with local Tribal Nations and incorporation of indigenous knowledge and cultural burning practices should be included in the amendment

Third, the amendment needs to enhance protections for at-risk species as well as bolster efforts to recover wildlife and natural ecosystems.

Finally, the amendment should recognize shifts in our region's socioeconomic landscape since 1994. While forest management in will always be a part of the Pacific Northwest economy, recreation and other pursuits now draw more people to our region than ever before. Building a modern forest workforce focused on ecological restoration of riparian and planted areas for the benefit of wildlife, fish, water, and biodiversity will contribute to ecological resilience of our National Forests and ensure continued public enjoyment of these lands we all value.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the Forest Service's proposed climate-smart amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan.

Sincerely,

Keller E Kendall