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First name: Marilyn Jo

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Jacqueline Buchanan US Forest Service, Regional Forester for the Pacific Northwest Region.

My name is Jo Chambers. I've been a long time grief and trauma counselor. I also live in a forest in west central Oregon.

Please accept my comment on the proposed Northwest Forest Plan amendment. Our forests are most important to me as a source of clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, protection from climate change, and healing from abuse and trauma. The trees provide protection for many animals and birds, moss and ferns.

The forest nurtured and saved me, and many of the people that I have counseled, during and after the pandemic. The forest heals deep trauma. The trees and solitude within the forest heals physical and emotional abuse. The trees have protected children from family violence.

I used to believe that we only lost the beauty of the forest when it was clear-cut. Now, I know that we lose many species of animals and birds. Carpets of soft moss are destroyed. Ferns and wildflowers disappear. I heard animals wailing in the night, after their homes and families destroyed by logging.

I am concerned that the Forest Service is using a rushed and abbreviated planning process for this amendment. The plan is important, and in order to maintain and strengthen its ecosystem-based conservation goals, the agency should use a transparent, science-based approach that includes and reflects public values, allows for meaningful Tribal consultation, (especially with wild fire control) and prioritizes climate resilience and the needs of future generations.

Please protect mature and old growth forests, please preserve biodiversity, we, (people, animals, trees, birds, moss, ferns), are all connected, more than we know. Please protect our precious water.

We need a strong visionary forest plan that incorporates modern science and Tribal inclusion. We need to care for the needs of future generations.

With respect and gratitude,

Jo Chambers, MA, LPC