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Title:

Comments: Dear Regional Foresters Jacqueline Buchanan and Jennifer Eberlien,

Please accept this comment as part of the first scoping period for the proposed Northwest Forest Plan amendment. I am a native Oregonian, and have a three-generation family lineage deeply rooted in the Pacific Northwest, the forests here hold a significance beyond words, offering a place for peace and meaning deeper than anywhere else I have ever traveled in this world. The old-growth moss-covered limbs welcome you into these trails, the paths tell a story that only your feet and heart seem to understand, creating a sanctuary unmatched in its depth of meaning. The way the weather changes in an instant yet remains familiar under the canopy protecting overhead imparts a sense of familiarity that goes beyond feeling.

These forests are more than mere landscapes but a place for medicine, food, for wisdom with more profound depth than can be understood in one lifetime. Protecting these gifts in the way they protect us is not only a responsibility but the natural step of being stakeholders within this precious delicate balanced ecosystem. Safeguarding these forests is our role. My attachment to the rights and access to these old-growth forests, BLM lands, national forests, wilderness areas, and natural spaces alike in an untampered way are drastically important to me, and the shared individuals in my community.

The biodiversity value of these ecosystems, especially the Mt. Hood Wilderness where I grew up and frequently recreate, remaining intact and continuing to have the ability to heal itself from previous damage is beyond crucial to our community. From the water that flows into our city, our health of our salmon and their spawning grounds, the thriving life of plants, animals, and fungi, and especially our incredible recently discovered marmot and wolverine population and their habitat- these elements are intricately woven and interconnected into a fabric larger than us in ways we're still yet learning. The intersection of science and the spiritual connection can provide the knowledge we've been seeking if we support and protect these systems allowing them to exist and thrive at their fullest capabilities, as well as work to restore the biological and ecological complexity of the ecosystems we have left, such as ending clear-cut logging.

As a volunteer trail worker, backpacker, medicinal plant forager, outdoor photographer, and advocate for sustainable protection of what remains of our beautiful Pacific Northwest forests during this amendment to the Northwest forest plan, my commitment extends beyond personal recreation. I am actively involved in the outdoor community and stand as an advocate for the rights of these forests from a political and ecological standpoint, recognizing their rights that may have been overlooked and not yet been considered.

My concerns encompass climate change, conservation of old growth, and the imperative of tribal inclusion.

Please consider the new plan changes to include:

-Commitment to protection guidelines for mature and old-growth forests to address the climate change and biodiversity crisis threatening our communities by protecting both mature and old-growth state, private, and public forests- leaving all existing old-growth stands.

-Strengthen restrictions on limitations for clear-cutting native stalls, and impose clear-cutting protection on private land. Strengthen logging protection for mature trees across federal lands.

-Protection guidelines for old-growth outside of reserves. Ending old-growth clear-cut logging and limited clear-

cutting in native stalls.

-Inclusion of Tribal perspectives, integrating perspectives in decision-making processes, including tracking metrics. Strengthening success metrics that incorporate a Tribal perspective.

-Tree regulation protections for urban canopy in public and private areas for the city to establish a healthy and mature urban forest to protect residents from excess heat and pollution.

-Strengthen fire resilience, the Government provides funding for more "defensible" spaces. Allowing beneficial fire practices back into ecosystems to enhance fire resilience, and allow a space for natural controlled burning fires.

-Investment in forest-based science and research and development (fungi/mycelium) allocating government resources towards advancing forest-based research exploring the potential for medicinal health benefits and fostering more sustainable communities.

By advocating for these considerations, we work towards a Northwest Forest Plan amendment that not only preserves our natural heritage but also respects the unique perspectives and wisdom embedded in these ancient landscapes. Slowing the consequence of climate change by leaving old growth for future generations. Please help us protect the things we're grateful for. Thank you.