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Organization:

Title:

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

I am Scott Shurtleff living in Southwest Portland. I am submitting my comments for the scoping period of the proposed Northwest Forest Plan amendment.

I hike often in our sacred Pacific Northwest forests, much of it managed by the US Forest Service. I notice the enormous amount of organic material contained in our forests, particularly in the old growth and mature forests. I notice the many creatures that call our forests home. I notice the moisture in the air and the earth. I receive a profound sense of peace and harmony with the forest.

Our mature and old growth forests are a vital source of water for the entire Portland Metro region and most of western Oregon. These forests capture and purify our water naturally. We must preserve all of our remaining old growth forests, and allow our mature forests to become old growth, in order to have sufficient clean, potable water for our communities.

Preserving the old growth and mature forests is among the greatest contributions that we can take towards climate action. These forests are sequestering vast amounts of carbon dioxide gas, contributing greatly towards a net zero emission future. We need to emphasize carbon sequestration in the management of our forests by preserving old growth and enabling more.

Historical logging has greatly reduced old growth forests in the Pacific Northwest. I consider old growth forests to be an endangered species. We must preserve all of the old growth forest that remains and allow mature forests to develop into old growth. These actions are vital to secure the water supply and a livable climate for future generations in Oregon.

Please adopt a Pacific Northwest Forest Plan that clearly protects all remaining old growth forests, as well as reserving sufficient mature forest to develop into old growth over the long-term.

Thank you for your commitment to the future of our forests and the health of our communities!

Scott Shurtleff

SW Portland