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First name: Buck

Last name: Olen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: TO: PNW Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service, Portland

VIA: <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=64745>

DATE: February 1, 2024

RE: Northwest Forest Plan Amendment - scoping comments

Dear Forest Service:

I write to urge the Forest Service to use a transparent, science-based process to maintain and strengthen the conservation mandates of the Northwest Forest Plan.

There is no doubt in my mind that many thoughtful and hardworking individuals have contributed their expertise and time to evaluate the NWFP as originally crafted, and have based on their skills and experience, supplemented by the many recommendations from informed individuals both professional and layperson alike, identified the many needed updates and alterations to strengthen the NWFP in light of the history since its inception and many changes to both climate and landscape that have occurred since 1994.

My intention in writing this letter is to invite the fullest recognition of the impacts of climate change and the importance of these lands for mitigation of some of the most extreme potential impacts that have yet to be realized. I, like many, will continue to do my part to strengthen my community, working towards increased resilience and sustainability, while safeguarding the most significant facets of our culture, society, and lands to the best of my ability. Unfortunately, I am but a single individual, and my impact will be limited as such. Those of you involved in the revision of the NWFP in comparison, yield substantial power and influence, and have the opportunity to make significant contributions for a more sustainable future.

By any metric supported by current scientific evaluations, conservation of these lands is paramount, and appropriate management is second only to the intent and will to do so. In these rapidly changing times, with ever mounting pressures, decisive and meaningful action is the only thing that will win the day. I urge you, dare I say, respectfully demand, that you prioritize safeguarding biodiversity, the sequestration of carbon, while minimizing the extractive and detrimental practices that have limited our resilience and long-term societal viability for short term financial gains.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your consideration and for the work you have done and will continue to do. I believe most involved understand what is needed, what is supported by science, and what will create the greatest good for the greatest number of individuals, both now and in the future.

Kindly,

Buck Olen