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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I live in Portland Oregon. I have spent my entire life hiking and camping in the woods, paddling on the rivers and enjoying trips to the ocean, observing the trees and vegetation in my neighborhood and tending to a backyard garden. I have also been following the scientific evidence of climate change since the early 2000's, and experiencing it's affects. I have lived through unusually high, and deadly summer temperatures, wildfire smoke that prevented me from leaving the house, and the flames that destroyed friends houses.

Mitigating climate change is my number one priority. It is a multiplier for ever other issue that affects people's lives. It affects our health and my children's and the planet's future.

I applaud President Biden's goal of 30 percent protection of mature and old growth forests by 2030. It must be included in the guiding principles of the proposed Northwest Forest Plan amendment.

I have a degree in Biology (with an emphasis on botany), and have worked as an environmental educator. I have always been surprised hearing loggers talk about forest, because they talk about them so differently than I do. Finally, I realized that they view and approach forests as an agricultural mono crop. They do not approach forests as complex ecosystems that affects and are affected by surrounding ecosystems such as streams.

Please keep in mind, as you craft the amendment, that the cost of dealing with the numerous effects of climate change far outweigh the loss of income from reduced logging.

Old growth trees are a major solution to reducing climate change. Oregon's once prolific stand of Old growth trees has been reduced to just 10%. We need the strongest protection possible to build up old growth and mature trees to 50% by 2050.

Intact forests are cooler, less impacted by drought and more fire-resistant. Our western forests do not need any thinning to prevent wildfire. Understory and small trees grow too fast to be an effective strategy for less common east wind events that caused the westside 2020 wildfires.

Any amendment to the Plan should have clear and enforceable limits on logging and road impacts. The amendment must have clearly protected, connected, and redundant reserves by including all mature and old-growth forests and core wildlife areas without roads (1000 acres or larger).

Here are specific recommendations that I agree with because they are valid from an ecological point of view. They will help us have a healthy future. I urge you to include them in the amendment:

- \* Continue to follow a fire policy that is science-based, including presence of wildland fire as these natural processes are a normal part of development of late-forest ecosystems.

- \* Thinning and vegetation management should only occur immediately adjacent to communities and not in wildland areas. It is more important to emphasize home hardening and defensible space around homes and communities to avoid ignition.

- \* Select areas of mature forest, preferably the vast majority, that are more resistant to insects and drought and with better water resources) and make logging off limits immediately by providing them with wilderness level protections. This is essential to meet the intent of President Biden's Executive Order 14072.

- \* Immediately protect all roadless areas and steep slopes from any logging including the Tongass National Forest.

- \* Place a moratorium on mature tree logging.

- \* Set up sidebars for any fire prevention strategies that includes protecting the larger trees by rule and

protecting riparian areas with clear buffers.

- \* Prioritize drinking watersheds for the strongest protection to advance mature forests to become old growth for water preservation.

- \* Increase riparian protection standards and require 70% canopy cover in all forested areas that contribute to salmon habitat both upriver and down to protect temperatures that are still dangerously high.

- \* Preserving biodiversity and connected wildlife habitat across the region should be a core principle of any forest plan revision. Please include not only threatened species, but also those pending for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

- \* Monitor carbon stores and incorporate the social cost of carbon dioxide emissions in decisions that cause emissions like logging.

Thank-you for your consideration.