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First name: Fred

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Organization:

Title:

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

My name is Fred Chambers and I am a volunteer with Cascadia Wildlands. I am a spiritual teacher and meditation instructor, but I'm on an extended sabbatical because I felt a strong calling to work on issues of climate chaos, racial and environmental justice and Indigenous rights. I'm also a grandfather of a beautiful two-year-old grandson.

Please accept these comments on the proposed Northwest Forest Plan amendment. I moved to Oregon in 1990 and immediately fell in love with the forests here. I love the forests for hiking, contemplation, camping, cutting firewood, and especially now, I see how valuable they are for storing carbon and mitigating the effects of climate chaos that is showing up on a regular basis. I've also done some field checking with Cascadia Wildlands and I've seen some beautiful areas in the public forest. One of the most amazing things was seeing a large freshwater spring gushing out of the base of a giant cedar tree! That was in a proposed timber sale, but fortunately that sale has been withdrawn for the time being.

I also support the Land Back movement. I think it is essential for the health and wellbeing of all of us, to begin returning land that was forcibly stolen from Indigenous peoples.

In crafting an amendment to the plan, I hope you will consider the following:

-The Forest Service should seek Tribal inclusion in the amendment process, not just "engagement". Tribes are sovereign nations, and forestland that falls within their traditional homelands should be managed collaboratively with those tribes. Tribes should be on equal footing with Regional Foresters in making the final ROD as well as at all levels of NEPA decision making process.

-Any NWFP amendments should increase ecosystem resilience to an uncertain climate by reducing environmental stressors such as logging, road building, and off-road vehicles. Corridors for wildlife migration need to be established. Amendments should also prioritize safeguarding the vast amount of forest carbon that makes the region's National Forests critically important in mitigating impacts of climate change.

-Mature forests should be protected and enhanced because they are more resilient and resistant to fires. Fuel and fire risk reduction "treatments" can have negative impacts on wildlife habitat, and seldom result in actual risk reduction because fires usually don't intersect with fuel reduction areas.

We need a strong forest plan that focuses on robust and honest tribal consultation, considers the needs of future generations, and also incorporates modern science.

Thanks for your consideration.

Fred Chambers