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Comments: I am writing in support of the proposed Forest Plan Amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP). Since its enactment, the NWFP has improved forest management and key habitat in the range of the northern spotted owl and restored and protected old-growth forests from unsustainable logging activities. As identified in the notice of intent, many changes have occurred since the NWFP was approved -i.e. best available science, ecological conditions, wildfire risks, ongoing effects of climate change, etc.- that warrant revisions to strengthen the NWFP and ensure its objective addresses these changed circumstances.

To address the increased risks of wildfires, I agree that management improvements to fire resistance and resilience are needed across the NWFP planning area. The improvements described in the proposed amendment include "direction for employing prescribed fire, managed fire use associated with natural ignitions, cultural burning, and active management." I think these measures are a step in the right direction to improve fire resistance and resilience, however, I would like to offer a potential addition or alternative to the proposed improvements. Fuel reduction and treatment practices are not referenced and, unless these practices are assumed to be covered under "active management", it is not clear if the USDA Forest Service is engaging in or anticipating use of these practices in the NWFP planning area to improve fire resistance and resilience. My first suggestion is for the agency to identify whether these practices are currently active in the NWFP planning area. If not, the agency should consider their implementation.

My second suggestion, and offered alternative for improving fire resistance and resilience, is for the agency to consider expanding the Timber Transport Pilot project conducted in the Klamath National Forest to the remaining NWFP planning area. According to the agency and the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), the removal of surplus fire salvage logs from the Klamath National Forest to transport to Wyoming proved successful and beneficial to fuel reduction and wildlife enhancement efforts in the forest. Naturally, this project also benefitted the local timber production industry, local communities, and economies in Wyoming. Implementing this project on a larger scale across the NWFP planning area could contribute to two objectives of the proposed amendment - improved fire resistance and resilience and supporting long-term sustainability and economic opportunities for the communities located near the national forests within the NWFP planning area. As an NWTF member, I was intrigued by this project and support the organization's partnership with the USDA Forest Service. I am looking forward to seeing more collaborative projects on forest restoration in the future.