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Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the planned amendment to the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP). Northwest Lichenologists, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that seeks to increase knowledge and expertise about lichens in the Pacific Northwest. Collectively our organization represents a hub of expertise that provides field surveys, consultations, research and documentation of lichen abundance, habitat, distribution, and use as indicators of forest health and air quality to land management agencies including the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Our organization has been instrumental in informing and updating the lists of Bureau Sensitive and Survey and Manage lichens, as well as the Forest Service's regional sensitive species efforts since the NWFP was initiated. We also regularly contribute to re-evaluation of species in the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center (ORBIC) lists of rare, threatened and endangered species, which is regularly used as a resource by Forest Service personnel.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, we support efforts to amend the NWFP and to incorporate our greatly increased knowledge of climate change and its anticipated effects into the NWFP. As an organization, we would like to be considered for inclusion in the planning process as expert contributors in the area of rare lichen species conservation and lichens as bioindicators of forest health.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment. We look forward to working together in this effort.