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Comments: [External Email]Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

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Dear Forest Service:

Thank you for accepting this scoping comment in support of the Forest Service's proposed amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP). The forests of the NFP region are vital to our region, providing cold, clean water for people and wildlife, inspiring places for contemplation and recreation, older forests home to rare species, climate change mitigation, and job opportunities.

In modernizing the NFP, it is crucial that we ensure that these ecosystem services continue to flow from our national forests and that they are able to adapt to a changing climate. We need to look back and see what 1994 plan accomplished, before we add more set aside non managed land that burns and destroys habitat for future generations Here are key considerations for the changes to the NFP:

First, the amendment must protect and conserve mature and old growth trees and forests in both moist and seasonally dry forests. While the NFP reserved many older forests in 1994. A mistake was made when cutting back to far on logging and not managing stands, making them tinder for wildfires.

Second, the amendment must recognize and address the effects of climate change, particularly the increase in very large and severe wildfires. While the NFP considers the essential role that wildfire plays in our forests, the size and severity of wildfires has far exceeded expectations. The amendment should reassess the conservation strategies, when forest are not managed and burn we loose habitat. do not add to an already failed policy.

Third, conservation of the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and native salmonids was a cornerstone of the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan, and an amendment should only maintain and enhance protections for at-risk fish and wildlife. The NFP amendment should bolster efforts to recover wildlife, recognizing the ongoing threat of climate change and past management practices. To protect biodiversity in the era of climate change, the amendment must ensure habitat resilience from disturbances such as wildfire, drought, disease, and insects. There needs to a managed forest, with all parties at table,

Finally, the amendment should recognize shifts in our region's socioeconomic landscape since 1994. While forest management will always be a part of the Pacific Northwest economy, we live in the most productive timber growing region in the world, we dont grow corn or wheat in the hills around us. people move here from other regions and want to change what we have and enjoyed for generations. set asides are great , sit back and look at what was accomplished since 1994. More logging in other countries (with no rules), fewer spotted owls (lets kill bart owls) more and larger wildfires (blame it all on climate change), not removing snags in fire areas, for safety , not able to direct attack fires. Old growth forests (100 + year non logged forests) should be protected, when they are burnt we loose stream protection, endangered specie habitat, what is worse, logging with rules and habitat

protections, or uncontrolled burns that destroy all existing habitat and most species?

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the Forest Service's proposed climate-smart amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan.

Sincerely,
Richard Bangs

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