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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a 6th generation Oregonian and have enjoyed the national forests here all my life, beginning with camping trips as a baby and raising my own children in these forests. I am now a member of Great Old Broads for Wilderness and we have been actively advocating for forest protection in the precious ecosystems.

I am writing to comment on the draft EIS for the proposed Northwest Forest Plan amendment. Not only do these forests provide clean water from their watersheds for the people (and animals) of Oregon, they also provide jobs, help prevent drought, are more resistant to fire and store carbon for longer periods of time than they would if they were cut.

I am very concerned that the Forest Service's proposed amendment weakens protections for these important functions rather than strengthens them. We should acknowledge the Tribal inclusion plan components in Alternative B, but take away the components that increase the age of trees that can be harvested. This would recognize both the social and economic benefits of the forests.

I am especially concerned about the increasing prevalence of wildfires each year. Fire resilience is made stronger by preserving and restoring mature and old-growth forests.

Please reject plans that weaken forests' protections to our valuable ecosystems and expand protections that do so. Work with modern science and values that are important to the people who live, work and recreate in these forests. Please keep them healthy for the needs of future generations.

Thank you for registering my opinion and wishes.

Sandy Riverman

Corvallis, Oregon