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Comments:

The Northwest Forest Plan encompasses the territories of 80+ Tribal nations. The Forest Service should prioritize Tribal inclusion and access in the decision making process around any changes to the Northwest Forest Plan. The agency should also provide the resources and support necessary to ensure equitable access to federal decision making processes for all Tribes and diverse Indigenous perspectives, not just those with dedicated staff who already work on forest issues.

The agency should support changes to the NWFP that enable cultural harvesting and access, co-stewardship agreements, fire stewardship, workforce development, and youth education. Supporting these practices is overdue, and the agency should establish specified time frames and requirements for meaningful engagement with Tribes.

The agency should support the use of Indigenous cultural burning and co-stewardship agreements. The Forest Service's fire suppression and fire exclusion policies have significantly altered landscapes and degraded frequent fire-adapted ecosystems. In partnership with Tribes, the agency should adopt a forward-looking policy of "fire inclusion" that incorporates the best fire ecology science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).

The USFS must honor Tribal sovereignty, including fulfilling governmental trust responsibilities and upholding Tribal treaty rights.