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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello and thank you for the opportunity to comment on revisions to the north northwest Forest plan. I live in eastern Washington in Spokane and have been recreating on public lands for my entire life; from hunting deer and upland birds, to backpacking, rock climbing, and back country skiing, many of my most valuable and important experiences have been in our great public lands. I am also a carpenter who works with the wood products, so I understand the economic need for harvesting trees for lumber.

I am encouraged by the talk of protecting old growth forests and I fully support protecting old growth and their complex and historic ecosystems. Once they are gone, they are gone for good. No construction project is worth cutting down a thousand year old tree for lumber.

I also support including indigenous knowledge and experience into the forest plan. For too long, our forest managers have ignored indigenous knowledge and suppressed cultural burning (among other practices) to the detriment of our forests. It is time to acknowledge the benefit of indigenous practices and caretaking of our lands and to allow real and meaningful input from our indigenous communities. The forests are not just where we recreate and extract, they are the source of our air, our water and our food. They give us spiritual sustenance and allow us to connect, again, with the land that is our home. Please protect our forests.