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Comments: My name is Cierra Buer. Please accept this comment on the draft EIS for the proposed Northwest Forest Plan amendment.

Any amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan should recognize the wide variety of social and economic benefits National Forests provide for local communities and the region as a whole-not just timber, but also clean water, climate stability, quality of life, and outdoor recreation.

Fire resistance and resilience can be bolstered by preserving and restoring mature and old-growth forests. Fuels and fire management should not focus commercial logging which just destabilizes the forests and instead on the home ignition zone and on non-commercial treatments and beneficial fire use. Commercial logging for fuel reduction can negatively impact wildlife habitat, remove large fire-resistant trees, introduce invasive species, and create hazardous fire conditions.

The Northwest Forest Plan should strengthen protections for mature and old-growth forests to ensure habitat, water quality, and carbon storage, and recruit more mature and old forests to restore a functional ecosystem. This will ensure connectivity for wildlife, and support the recovery of imperiled species. Any reduction in forest reserve protections would increase harmful impacts such as habitat destruction, sediment in streams, and carbon loss, further endangering sensitive ecosystems.

I believe we need a strong forest plan that prioritizes modern science and considers public values, includes robust and honest tribal consultation and meets the needs of future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cierra Buer