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Comments: I'm a native Oregonian. Our public forests is a big part of what makes Oregon "Oregon". These forests need to be protected for many reasons; carbon sequestration, their beauty, the wildlife they support and many more reasons. The comments below describe my opinion on the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment.

The USFS should retain all of the Tribal inclusion plan components analyzed in the DEIS. I support elements of the proposed amendment that include a beneficial fire approach and support of Indigenous cultural burning and co-stewardship agreements. The Tribes were here before settlers, and their knowledge should be retained, respected, and implemented.

Any proposed amendment to the NWFP should not weaken protections for our region's older forests, clean water, and wildlife habitat. If enacted, the proposed changes would significantly increase logging levels across our public forests, open mature and old-growth trees to commercial logging, and sideline the protections that communities, wildlife, and ecosystems depend on. Preserving biodiversity and connected wildlife habitat across the region should be a core principle of this forest plan amendment.

About fire resilience: again, indigenous knowledge must be retained, respected, and implemented. Fire resistance and resilience can be bolstered by preserving and restoring mature and old-growth forests. Fuels and fire management should focus on the home ignition zone and on non-commercial treatments and beneficial fire use, not commercial logging. Indigenous cultural burning and wildland fire use should be prioritized. Commercial logging for fuel reduction can negatively impact wildlife habitat, remove large fire-resistant trees, introduce invasive species, and create hazardous fire conditions. Standards must ensure that fuel reduction is both needed and effective before logging is allowed.

We need a plan for our forests that supports the many 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, wildlife, beauty, and outdoor recreation opportunities.