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First name: Coleen

Last name: Miller

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The forests of the Pacific Northwest are important to me. I've enjoyed Oregon's national forest for over 20 years. I am a PhD biologist and the mother of an Oregon State University 2025 graduate in Environmental Science. My son and I are avid hikers and campers. I also love to fish. We have many memories of transformative days in Oregon's forests.

I am concerned that the Forest Service's proposed amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan weakens protections for our region's forests, clean water and wildlife habitat. If enacted, these changes would at least double logging levels, open mature and old-growth trees to logging, and sideline the protections that our climate, communities, wildlife, and ecosystems depend on.

I support some elements of the amendment that include a beneficial fire approach and support of Indigenous cultural practices and co-stewardship agreements. The Forest Service should retain all of the Tribal inclusion plan components that are in Alternative B, but uncouple them from the forest management plan components that increase the age of trees and forests that can be logged.

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

Our forests are not simply "fun places to hike" or "available board feet for timber harvest". Our forests are a key pillar of the fabric of our planet. Their continual erosion and degradation will be the erosion and degradation of us and all living beings. The economic costs for timber harvest do not hold up if you consider the increases to planet warming, decreases in water availability, decreases in livability of our communities, and decreases in species diversity.