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First name: Patricia

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I am a homeowner in the Mckenzie Valley, and live on the Mckenzie River. My community borders the Willamette National Forest. My husband and I are retired or near retirement and visit and hike in not only the WNF, but all forests in the Pacific NW. We find the beauty of our regional forests to be unparalleled and beckon us back to them over and over again. We want future generations to be able to enjoy these areas as we have enjoyed them.

Our home burned down in the Holiday Farm Fire, and I see everyday the catastrophic effects of logging on the burned and unburned landscape. We value the forests that surround us, not just for their beauty and the recreational opportunities they offer, but also recognize the important role they play in our fight against climate change due to the amount of carbon they store.

We would like to see the Northwest Forest Plan reflect all those who have an interest in our forests, and to reflect an understanding of the role forests play in our climate future, not solely timber interests. These interests include:

- The storage of atmospheric carbon for long periods of time
- Safeguarding the incredible and critically linked ecosystems that cannot exist in a clear cut or plantation cut
- Keeping the water that flows through these forests safe for the fish that need them for survival, and for our drinking water
- Keeping our forests more fire resistant
- Providing recreational opportunities for all that benefits our physical and mental health

We would like to see the Forest Service strengthen or expand protections for forest reserves under the Northwest Forest Plan to recruit more habitat, protect streams, and enhance carbon storage-NOT reduce them or open them to logging.

We do not believe it is an emergency to increase logging in our beautiful forests, and are well aware of the devastating effects excess logging leaves behind.

For this reason, we do not feel that any of the options in this amendment reflect what is actually needed, which is a plan that allows:

1. for logging while balancing protection of the forest
2. a COMPLETE moratorium on old growth logging
3. prioritizing other interested forest participants, not just the timber industry
4. a clear statement on climate change, the role our forests play in reducing the impact, and a plan that clearly uses our best science to make decisions

Thank you, Patricia Hathaway