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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have a deep love and caring for our mature and old growth national forests and public lands. I'll never forget the overwhelming feeling of awe and gratitude I experienced more than fifty years ago as I drove over the pass through the towering trees into Oregon for the first time, knowing this was to be my new home. Since then, with family and friends, we have greatly enjoyed outdoor recreation of many kinds - river rafting, fishing, hiking, skiing, camping. I feel a deep commitment to help ensure that these natural economic, environmental and recreational resources are maintained as a legacy to my children, grandchildren and future generations.

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 the proposed changes would at least double logging levels, expose more mature and old growth trees to logging and eliminate or weaken measures necessary to protect our climate, wildlife and ecosystems.

One element of the amendment I support is improving our approach to fire, by prioritizing prevention, mitigation and community safety and resilience, rather than logging. (The post fire logging in the McKenzie valley was horrendously excessive.)

I also support all of the tribal inclusion components in Alternative B although they should be separated from the forest management components regarding the age of trees that can be logged. I do not support those.

The Forest Service must not weaken core protections of the Northwest Forest Plan. Maintaining and strengthening protection for forest reserves is critical to preserving biodiversity, clean water, and the long term climate benefits or forests provide.