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First name: Matthew Last name: Morrissey

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I urge the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to approve a final Plan that prioritizes wildlife, climate, and ancient forests...not logging at all costs. For 30 years, the Northwest Forest Plan has protected Oregon's mature and old-growth forests and the wildlife that depends on those forests for survival. It largely halted the unchecked clearcutting that threatened to destroy our forests and drive species to extinction. Please do not amend the Plan (with Alternative B (the Proposed Alternative) and Alternative D options in the Draft EIS) that prioritizes and accelerates logging, and puts our forests, fish, wildlife, clean water, and climate at risk.

We applaud the USFS's engagement with the Tribes in the development of the DEIS. The agency has made meaningful commitments to respect Tribal sovereignty, honor treaty rights, fulfill trust responsibilities, and facilitate co-stewardship. The final Plan should advance the Tribal inclusion components forward independently and not tied to any of the alternatives (in particular the Proposed Alternative B and Alternative D).

While the DEIS identified the need to provide a more predictable supply of timber it does not provide sufficient guidance to ensure that the goal of increasing the supply of timber does not conflict with economic opportunities well-known to provide higher economic values, such as outdoor recreation, clean water, and fisheries. These must be addressed in the final EIS.