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Comments: I am writing regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP)

I want to implore the U. S. Forest Service (USFS) to approve an ecologically-sound and socially-just regional plan. Please include the following in the final EIS and decision document for the amended NWFP.

Ecological Fire Management:

The rich history of Indigenous cultural fire management, which now has current scientific efficacy, maintained the health of forest lands unlike the current USFS fire exclusion and wildfire suppression policies. The current practices have caused widespread harm to our Forest's ecological integrity.

It is for this reason, I ask the Forest Service to authorize prescribed fire, Indigenous cultural burning, and managed wildfires for ecological benefits across broad landscapes in the NWFP amendment.

Tribal Sovereignty:

The National Forests within the NWFP are the homelands of over 80 Tribes and other Indigenous communities. Their land stewardship practices helped sustain native biodiversity and habitat vitality.

I ask the Forest Service to respect Tribal sovereignty, honor treaty rights, and authorize Indigenous co-stewardship programs and projects in the NWFP amendment.

Old Growth:

The only proven means of humans actively managing and maintaining resilience in old-growth forest has been through Indigenous cultural burnings. Tribal inclusion requires fire inclusion, and old-growth forest resilience requires Indigenous cultural science and ecological fire management.

To conclude, I ask the U. S. Forest Service to authorize a forward-looking, ecologically-sound, and socially-just regional plan in the NWFP amendment for the sake of our Old Growth Forests and our future.

Thank you for this opportunity.