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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Subject: Comment on NW Forest Plan Amendment - Endorsement of Alternative D

Dear U.S. Forest Service Planning Team,

I am writing to express my formal endorsement of Alternative D in the proposed Northwest Forest Plan Amendment. As a staunch supporter of balanced forest management that promotes ecological health, economic vitality, and public access to our natural landscapes, I believe Alternative D offers the most robust framework to achieve these critical goals.

#### Advocacy for Enhanced Forest Management

Alternative D champions proactive forest management practices that are indispensable for mitigating wildfire risks, enhancing forest resilience, and ensuring the sustainable utilization of our natural resources. The current passive management approach has resulted in dense forests, heightened fuel loads, and increasingly catastrophic wildfires, posing significant threats to both our environment and local communities. By embracing strategies such as controlled burns, selective thinning, and responsible timber harvesting, Alternative D promises to foster healthier forests while also fostering economic opportunities.

#### Economic Advantages & Employment Generation

A compelling aspect of Alternative D is its potential to foster economic growth and sustain livelihoods in rural areas. Projected increases in timber production under this alternative are expected to raise annual harvest levels by at least 33%, thereby providing stable employment opportunities for loggers, mill workers, and forestry professionals alike. Furthermore, active management initiatives will support local businesses, contractors, and service providers that rely on a thriving forestry sector.

#### Preservation of Recreational Access & Trails

As an avid outdoor enthusiast, I hold particular concern for preserving access to trails, roads, and public lands for recreational use. Many recreational trails, hiking routes, and access roads have either been closed or fallen into disrepair due to restrictive policies and inadequate maintenance. Alternative D assures a steadfast commitment to maintaining open roads and trails, ensuring both motorized and non-motorized recreationists can continue to responsibly enjoy our forests. Enhanced forest management will also contribute to better-maintained access routes, mitigate the risk of wildfires closing off areas, and improve overall trail conditions.

#### Balanced Approach to Conservation

Alternative D strikes a commendable balance between increased management activities and environmental conservation imperatives. This alternative includes safeguards for old-growth forests, critical wildlife habitats, and watershed areas, thereby ensuring that our public lands remain productive and accessible while safeguarding their ecological integrity. Recognizing that a well-managed forest is a healthy forest, Alternative D underscores the importance of integrating conservation with sustainable resource use.

#### Conclusion

The Northwest Forest Plan Amendment represents a pivotal opportunity to shape the future trajectory of our

public lands. Alternative D stands out as the optimal choice for promoting forest health, economic resilience, wildfire prevention, and recreational access. I strongly urge the U.S. Forest Service to adopt this forward-thinking approach, prioritizing active management practices, job creation, and continued public access to our forests for a variety of uses.

Thank you for considering my perspective. I deeply appreciate your dedication to fostering a sustainable and pragmatic future for our forests.

Best regards,  
Kellee Enneman