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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear U.S. Forest Service Planning Team,

I am writing to express my strong support for Alternative D in the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment. As someone who values our public lands-not just for their natural beauty but for the opportunities they provide to future generations-I believe this approach is the best path forward for ensuring healthy forests, safe communities, and sustainable recreation.

I want my children and grandchildren to experience the same sense of wonder and adventure that I have when exploring the forests. Whether hiking, camping, fishing, or simply enjoying the quiet of nature, these lands should remain accessible, thriving, and well-managed. But today, I fear we are failing them. If we continue on the current path-one of neglect and passive management-we will leave behind forests that are overgrown, fire-prone, and ultimately unusable for recreation or sustainable resources.

**A Future Built on Active Management**

I support Alternative D because it embraces active forest management-a proactive, hands-on approach that focuses on keeping our forests healthy rather than allowing them to deteriorate. Our current policies have left millions of acres vulnerable to wildfires, insect infestations, and disease, and every year, we watch as more land burns instead of being protected.

This alternative offers real solutions:

\*Thinning overcrowded forests to reduce wildfire risks and allow healthier trees to thrive.

\*Removing dead and diseased trees that would otherwise serve as fuel for catastrophic fires.

\*Replanting and regenerating landscapes to ensure our forests continue to grow for generations to come.

These are not just abstract policies; they are actions that will determine whether our children inherit vibrant forests or lifeless wastelands.

**Protecting Communities & Restoring Jobs**

Beyond environmental health, Alternative D also considers the well-being of the people who live near and depend on these lands. For decades, small towns and rural communities have been left behind due to restrictive policies that cut off access to natural resources. The result?

\*Once-thriving towns have faded into near ghost towns.

\*Families who relied on forestry jobs have been forced to relocate or struggle to make ends meet.

\*Local businesses, from small shops to outdoor outfitters, have suffered as recreational access has been restricted.

By allowing sustainable forestry practices, we can revitalize these communities while ensuring forests continue to be responsibly maintained. It is possible-and necessary-to strike a balance between conservation and economic stability.

**Recreational Access: A Legacy for Our Children**

As a mother, I cherish the time spent outdoors with my family. The ability to take my children camping, hiking, or off-roading, to teach them the value of nature and responsible land stewardship, is something I refuse to take for granted.

Yet, year after year, more roads and trails are closed, limiting access for families, outdoor enthusiasts, and even emergency response teams. If this trend continues, will my children have the same experiences I had growing up? Will they know the joy of watching wildlife from a forest trail, of camping under the stars, or of learning hands-on skills in the great outdoors?

Alternative D ensures that we do not lock future generations out of these experiences. It keeps roads open for fire crews, search-and-rescue teams, and everyday people who simply want to enjoy our public lands. It supports recreation-based businesses that depend on visitors coming to explore the forests. And most importantly, it ensures that the forests themselves remain accessible and alive-not just for us, but for those who come after us.

**A Balanced Conservation Approach**

Alternative D does not sacrifice environmental protection-it strengthens it through responsible action. Instead of

allowing lands to become fuel-laden tinderboxes, this plan takes real steps to promote biodiversity, protect watersheds, and safeguard critical habitats. It acknowledges that a managed forest is a healthy forest-not one abandoned to unchecked destruction.

My Ask: A Plan That Truly Works for Everyone

I urge the U.S. Forest Service to adopt Alternative D because it represents a future where forests, communities, and families all thrive together.

? Forest health through active management.

? Economic stability for families and local businesses.

? Continued access to public lands for recreation and conservation.

? A thriving legacy for future generations.

We have a choice-to let these forests slip away into fire and decay or to take action today so that our children and grandchildren can continue to enjoy them. I choose action, responsibility, and stewardship-and I urge you to do the same.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Christina Holland

Mother, Grandmother and Outdoor Enthusiast