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Comments: I would like to see a more diverse and detailed discussion of fire in the PNW forests informing amendment C- for the good of our communities and of the forests. Yes, I agree that we have some competing priorities, but simple suppression of fire goes against the natural patterns of our native forests, and methods like thinning in backcountry seems an exercise in futility (or perhaps pure money making) as only a prophet could predict where the next fire will hit. Any amendment of course needs clear plans for home hardening and community preparation for fires to prevent home destruction and loss of life. And for the next four years at least there must be energy and "man hours" put to pursuing the federal government for firefighting funds, since DC right now is clueless or uncaring when it comes to fires in the west. I personally have found the enormity of our recent fires to be personally scarring; we cannot minimize their effects on humans, animals and plants, or hope for good luck next time.

Plan C, which I must praise for its reduced logging, needs the tribal inclusion factor seen in other amendments to begin to address the issue of fire in our national forests, both wet and dry. I'd like to see appropriate tribes brought in as stakeholders and allies through all forest management discussions, with special consideration of the honoring of treaties, traditions, and historic uses of forest species, land and water. (I'm impressed by the variety of tribal related recommendations by the NW Forest Plan Amendment Federal Advisory Committee.) Cultural burning, as well as studies of natural burning cycles, adjusted for climate change, needs to be considered seriously. The part played by the more fire resistant ecosystems found only in true mature and old growth stands should be acknowledged in the amendment. And of course while fire resistance is necessary for people living near the forests, there should be a place for beneficial fire in forest planning, to revitalize Indigenous culture, regenerate native species, support wildlife and so forth. Please educate the public, and your trainees, as to when working with and not against fire is necessary- particularly in moist forests. The amendment should also support handling post-disturbance situations (fire, wind, pathogens, and floods, etc) to manage for invasive species, repair of habitat and ecosystem function, and not just use the situation as an excuse for "thinning out" (removing) remaining trees. These remnants will do much, whether standing or lying, to help the forest recover naturally. As a doctor prepares a patient for a healthy future after an illness, so should forest caretakers plan for the next generation of old growth forests in the public domain.

I thank the forest service employees for caring for our public lands with transparency and integrity, and hope they will not be afraid to express to the public the complications and contradictions of human management of a fabulous natural landscape. We all learn best by being honest about what we don't know.

"The trees encountered on a country stroll?

Reveal a lot about a country's soul.

A small grove massacred to the last ash,?

An oak with heart-rot, give away the show:?

This great society is going to smash;?

They cannot fool us with how fast they go,?

How much they cost each other and the gods.

?A culture is no better than its woods."

--W.H. Auden