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First name: Clea

Last name: Partridge

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

I am a lifelong Pacific Northwesterner and current inhabitant of Portland, Or for the past 17 years. I work as a mental health therapist and surprisingly enough, I often deal with issues related to climate change, climate anxiety and nature. I regularly work with people struggling to figure out how to cope with fears of climate change and devastation of humans and natural environments as a result. Simultaneously, I often "prescribe," visits to natural areas as an antidote to despair, hopelessness, and disconnection. As such, I am acutely interested in the revisions to the NW Forest Plan.

First, I would like to encourage the Forest Service to support changes to the NWFP that support tribal sovereignty such as cultural harvesting, land access, fire stewardship, and other co-stewardship agreements. These changes to the plan are ethical and inclusionary. No other group of people are as concerned with and impacted by the health and proper management of our forests than the original people here. This means, involving tribes is an important way to understand forest and land management for long term health of this region.

Second, some of the proposed amendments to the NWFP weaken protections for the forest including clean waterways and wildlife habitat. Doubling or tripling logging in the region as proposed has negative and possibly irreparable consequences to northwest forests. Some of the negative repercussions include losing access to an incredible form of carbon sequestration- forests are considered one of the best forms of carbon sequestration, storing twice as much carbon as they emit. This is of utmost importance as climate change continues to have drastic effects on people and wildlife, including in the recent, devastating, and expensive wildfire in Los Angeles. Increasing logging access in old growth forests also impacts plant and animal biodiversity, a reality which has negative impacts on our environment as well as the mental wellbeing of many of this region's inhabitants- a reality that I have seen first hand. I can report intimately the paralyzing fear that many people feel when considering habitat loss, the biodiversity crisis, and possible extinction of endangered species in our region. Public health and mental health concerns are an expensive and time consuming stress on local resources, not to mention the expenses and pressures local municipalities face when dealing with the fallout from climate change exacerbated disasters such as the inexorable uptick in wildfires in the northwest.

I urge the forest service to take these things into consideration when considering what changes to make in the NWFP.

Thank you,

Clea Partridge