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Comments: To: US Forest Service

Subject: Urgent Concerns Regarding the Proposed Amendments to the Northwest Forest Plan

As a granddaughter of one of the first Forest Supervisors serving under Gifford Pinchot, founder of the U.S. Forest Service-I write to express my strong concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the Northwest Forest Plan. Overall, the proposals do not offer adequate protections for mature and old-growth forests. This will severely impact biodiversity, increase wildfire risk, impair water quality, and reduce climate resilience.

Oregon's forests are not merely timber resources. They provide essential ecosystem services: clean water and air, diverse wildlife habitats, and crucial carbon sequestration. These forests are vital for our communities, economies, and overall quality of life, possessing value beyond their extractive potential.

I am concerned about several provisions of the proposed amendments and urge the US Forest Service to:

?To maintain the 80-year criterion for mature forests (Option C) and permanently protect all old-growth stands.

This includes implementing strict standards for fuel reduction, prioritizing ecological integrity.

?To maintain species-specific management plans and expand Late-Successional Reserves (LSRs) to create larger, connected blocks of habitat to protect endangered species.

?To protect the ecosystem of Central Oregon's fragile forests that are increasingly threatened by logging.

I urge the Forest Service to reconsider these amendments and prioritize the long-term health of our forests through a more holistic approach. Overall, it is important to recognize the broader economic and social benefits of forest, including clean water, climate stability, and outdoor recreation. We must strengthen, not weaken, protections for mature and old-growth forests, endangered species, and the overall ecological integrity of our region.