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Comments: Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment #64745.

Forests in the Pacific Northwest are some of the most special and unique places that America has as a country. They provide habitat for a multitude of species both large and microscopic, filter fresh water, clean our air, rejuvenate the souls of recreationalists, hunters and nature lovers all different walks of life, and are considered sacred and spiritual places where one can retreat from the burdens of everyday life. Once a forest is logged it takes a lifetime for it to return to anything that resembles the same character as it was prior. While logging and timber are necessary parts of modern life, it cannot be understated the value of proper forest management, similar to the current northwest forest plan protections, although even this could be improved. We must not backtrack and cave to logging industry talking points and give up on responsible management of these invaluable forests.

The Forest Service should retain all of the Tribal inclusion plan components that are in Alternative B, but remove the forest management components that allow older trees and forests to be logged.

The forest service must preserve biodiversity and connected wildlife habitats across the region as this should be a core principle of this forest plan amendment. Reduction in forest reserve protections would increase harmful impacts like habitat destruction, sedimentation of streams and rivers, increase soil erosion, release tons of carbon, remove the carbon sink provided by old growth forests, further endanger sensitive ecosystems.

The Forest Service must reject plans to lessen the protections of the Northwest Forest Plan, and do the following:

1. Strengthen protections for mature and old-growth forests. Expanding protections of forest reserves to ensure a functional and diverse forested ecosystems. water quality, connectivity of wildlife, carbon storage and public access.
2. Consult with Tribes, respect their sovereignty, and provide resources to support their full participation and decision-making. The Forest Service must support co-stewardship agreements, cultural burning practices, first food harvesting, and youth education while ensuring equitable access to planning processes.
3. Expand research opportunities that investigate the quality of water/air/soil/forests and impacts on logging, deforestation, wildlife preservation, human activities, hunting, etc.
4. Wildfire strategies should prioritize community and structure safety and proven prevention techniques vs clear cutting, and destructive forest thinning actions.

The amendment should enhance the Northwest Forest Plan by adding to its network of reserves, not open the door to logging them in the name of preservation. Of course the logging industry wants reduced restrictions on their actions. Reducing actions will fatten their pocket books and anyone else affiliated with the industry. The time for decision making where money is not the only consideration have got to go into the past. We must move to a world where we consider all of the costs associated with making a decision and not solely on short sighted value propositions that are based around money and greed.

A strong forest plan must incorporate modern science, the inherent importance of natural spaces, public values, honest tribal integration, and the value of spaces for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you for your consideration.