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First name: Rachel

Last name: Whipple

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear U.S. Forest Service,

My name is Rachel Whipple, and I am writing in support of the Sierra Club's mission to protect the future of the Northwest Forest Plan. As a longtime hiker and outdoor enthusiast living in the Pacific Northwest, I have spent countless hours exploring the trails, forests, and wild spaces that make this region so special. For two years, I volunteered with Women Who Hike, leading group hikes to help empower women to build community and deepen their connection with nature. These experiences have shaped my appreciation for our public lands and reinforced my belief that we must protect them for future generations.

Oregon's forests are not just places of beauty-they are critical to our well-being, providing clean water, carbon sequestration, and vital habitat for wildlife. They are also increasingly at risk. As climate change accelerates, I worry about the growing threat of wildfires, which are often worsened by short-sighted forest management practices. We need solutions that prioritize ecosystem health over timber profits, ensuring that these forests remain resilient in the face of a changing climate.

The Northwest Forest Plan has long been a model for science-based, sustainable forest management. Any amendments should strengthen, not weaken, its protections. I urge you to prioritize conservation efforts that safeguard old-growth forests, protect water resources, and mitigate wildfire risk through ecological restoration rather than increased logging.

I am deeply grateful to live in a region with such incredible natural resources, and I want to ensure that future generations have the same opportunity to find peace, adventure, and inspiration in these forests. Please uphold the strongest possible protections for our public lands.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel Whipple