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Comments: I am a resident of Deschutes County OR and have been actively involved in Forest Service land management activities since the mid 1980's. These activities include volunteering in resource restoration, biological data collection, and public involvement in local and regional management decisions. I was actively involved with resource management activities that included north central WA forests when I was a resident of Washington; these activities included providing resource data to agency officials and providing comments on the original NW Forest Plan. I am no stranger to these forests or to this process.

I am writing now because aspects of the amendment draft threaten to undermine years of effort to retain intact NW forest ecosystems but some also emphasize important points that should be considered in revised amendments. As someone who has always worked closely and productively with Forest Service and BLM employees, I will highlight both aspects below.

>Extensive involvement of knowledge by ALL tribes with jurisdiction in these forests. This is critical and should be emphasized and carried out with respect under the existing NWFP.

>No logging or road building in LSR and riparian reserves. No exceptions

>Wildfire risk reduction: The best thing is to NOT cut large mature trees and build new roads. Comprehensive plans should focus on matrix areas in proximity to towns. Prescribed fire and limited logging in these areas should proceed with full environmental review and with the sole purpose of decreasing wildfire risk, not commercially logging the area. Careful attention should be paid to disposal of logging slash-pile burning should be prohibited. This destroys habitats and doubles the wildfire smoke season for affected communities.

>East side ponderosa pine forests: There should be no increase in logging of these fragile forests. They provide important carbon sinks, habitat for many species, and retain stream and water quality and abundance. Dry side forests do not recover like wetter, west side forests. They harbor unique species that have not been as extensively studied as old growth dependent species in west side forests. Road building in these areas disturb sensitive soils and creates dust that threatens air quality and health of people and animals in surrounding communities. Any activity here should only focus on creating fire breaks for wildfire resilience of communities.

>No weakening of existing environmental laws by increasing activities covered under categorical exclusion. Full community involvement is needed, including Tribes, for any activities that will affect short and long term resilience and health of surrounding lands.

Alternative A is the only option for this amendment.

Thank you for your consideration

Mary Poss