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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Ms. Jacque Buchanan, Regional Forester, USFS,

I live in Washington State, and our forests mean a lot to me. I'm writing about the Northwest Forest Plan amendment process because I've seen firsthand how these forests make our region special - from the clean water they provide to the incredible wildlife they support.

When I walk through our old-growth forests, I'm struck by how much life they hold. These centuries-old trees do more than just store carbon - they create entire ecosystems that we can't get back once they're gone. In our changing climate, protecting these forests isn't just about preservation - it's about survival.

I worry about the future of these forests. With more floods, droughts, and wildfires threatening our region, we must put forest health first. While I understand that timber is important to our economy, we can't let short-term profits override long-term forest resilience.

I'm glad to see the plan includes working with local Tribes. Their deep understanding of these forests, built over countless generations, should guide how we care for these lands. We need to honor both their treaty rights and their traditional practices.

I believe Alternative B+ offers the best path forward by:

Protecting and bringing back old forests in Reserve areas

Creating better wildlife pathways across the landscape

Taking better care of our streams and rivers

Using traditional burning practices

Reducing forest roads to help wildlife and prevent flood damage

The choices we make today will shape these forests for generations. Please consider my thoughts as you move forward with this vital work.

Sincerely,

Valerie Day