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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am very concerned about our NW forests in particular Mt. Hood National Forest. I am a visual artist based in Portland. I did an extensive artist book titled, "Owed to The Mountain" (referring to Mt. Hood). I have been involved with Bark for many years.

I am very pleased to see that the DEIS includes many important measures to expand Tribal inclusion across the NWFP area, through expanded measures for cultural harvesting and access, co-stewardship agreements, fire stewardship, workforce development, and youth education. I am also appreciative of the statements favoring prescribed burning and managing wildfires for resource benefits.

However, I am very concerned that there is less protection for mature forests. This makes absolutely no sense to me when the science plainly shows how beneficial old growth forests are for the health of a forest - withstanding wildfires, carbon sequestration and wildlife habitat. To cut old growth forest is irresponsible, shortsighted and frankly maddening !!! We can't get those trees back once they are cut down. Please do not cut them!! We should not be harvesting any old growth wood. Frankly, with all that we know logging is a terrible mistake - that we have the power to correct.

The proposed NWFP amendment weakens protections for our region's forests, clean water, and wildlife habitat. If enacted, these changes would double or even triple logging levels across our public forests, open mature and old-growth trees to chainsaws, and sideline the protections that communities, wildlife, and ecosystems depend on. This inclusion is devastating. To allow even greater flexibility and "predictability of timber outputs" would eliminate rare species survey requirements before logging in certain areas.

The USFS must honor Tribal sovereignty, including fulfilling governmental trust responsibilities and upholding Tribal treaty rights.

The Forest Service should strengthen or expand protections for forest reserves under the Northwest Forest Plan to recruit more habitat, protect streams, and enhance carbon storage-not reduce them or open them to logging.

Management decisions should reflect Tribal stewardship practices, uphold sovereignty, and ensure meaningful consultation and engagement with Tribal communities. Pairing these components with the Forest Service's plan for weakened environmental protections is a false choice manufactured by the agency.

We need strong environmental leadership that stands up to the historical practice of logging.

There are no second chances we must stop cutting trees.

Sincerely,

diane jacobs