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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To: Northwest Forest Plan Hearing staff

From: Elisabeth Minthorn, Bird Alliance of Oregon/ Twenty year Member and Active Volunteer

Portland, Oregon

As a native Northwesterner, ( Longview, Washington ), long time outdoorswoman and community gardener I would like to add a few pertinent comments to the proposed renewal plan this year.

First, as a Northwesterner I have always been aware of the beautiful vast forests, their bounty both practical and aesthetic , and value to residents and guests from near and far. These days, most particularly in the 21st century, I am more and more aware of the denuding of forests and forest land for clearcutting and other purposes. Living here, the intermittent flooding and landslides in the NW Oregon/SW Washington areas have been apparent, in conjunction with possible inappropriate logging. It would be prudent to further discuss appropriate logging, for business and environmental purposes. The carbon sequestration of forests is not disputed. We need to honor that practically and morally. We need not "bite the hands that feed us", and honor the homes of vast avian and mammalian life.

Second, in terms of planned forest management , I understand that it is more efficient to maintain fires near surrounding forest communities rather than in the moist forest areas. We need to preserve the moist forest areas. The amended plan would have to make allowance for that needed change in forest management.

Third, in terms of listing certain mammals as beneficial for the forests, I would suggest you add Beavers to the list. Beavers are important in shaping water management on many levels through the building of dams and lifestyle.

Please consider these important and timely issues in discussing and improving our Northwest Forest Plan - valuable across three Western states, millions of acreage and impacting many, many farms, ranches, businesses, towns, cities and parks, and millions of people.

Best Wishes for this timely and important update to our Northwest Forest Plan, EB Minthorn

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