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Comments: I strongly support the initiatives for greater tribal involvement in the DEIS. Indigenous peoples (including both Federally recognized tribes and those still struggling for recognition such as the Chinook Indian Nation) have the knowledge, responsibility, and the right to play a more significant role in land management decisions.

Our country needs wood and other forest products, and people in forested rural areas need work. But it would be terribly short sighted to return to pre-1994 clear cutting, or to "thin" heavily, or to allow profit motives to drive tree cutting decisions. Our old-growth and maturing forests are a treasure, and an essential asset in our fight against climate change. Let's leave them standing! Commercial cutting should happen only in tree plantations, and preferably on the longest feasible rotations. If the price of lumber and other forest products goes up, waste will go down. Yes, we need affordable housing, but we also need better ways of building it. We should be ashamed when old housing is smashed up re-usable wood thrown in the landfill.

Wildfire is a huge problem in the Pacific Northwest, but thinning the forest won't stop it. It would be impossible to treat the whole forest even once, much less every few decades. In some forest types, thinning may lead to a greater risk of wildfire, as it allows wet forests to dry out. I support thinning along roads and near communities. Far from homes, let's leave the forest alone as much as possible, or defer to tribe for their management plans.

I love our northwest forests dearly. I spend a lot of time in the Siuslaw and Willamette National Forests, and a bit of time in other nearby forests as well. I love to walk and camp and find mushrooms and look for salamanders with my children. I want these places to be there for my grandchildren, too, and for the descendants of all the creatures living in the forests now.