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First name: Jacob

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To the USFS and USDA,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the proposed amendments to the NorthWest Forest Plan. As a person who's life and livelihood relies on our mature and old growth forests, this is an issue that deeply affects me.

I am a resident of Curry County, a rugged and unique place home to many endangered and protected species, including Marbled Murrelet, Spotted Owl, and Coho Salmon. These incredible animals are just a part of the fragile, interconnected ecosystem that makes our forest unique. Countless species of plant only grow here: for instance the Kalmiopsis Leachiana which is endemic to the Kalmiopsis Wilderness.

My life is deeply tied to our public lands. Not only do I use them for recreation, I also find my inspiration in the forest. As a professional photographer, I have had the privilege to witness many places deep off of the beaten path, or indeed of any path at all. My life is spent poring over maps, looking for the new wild place to beckon me. Many of my fellow residents of Curry County moved here specifically for these forests. I know many people, myself included, who's livelihood, and/or business relies on access to these mature forests, and pristine rivers. To take this from us for a temporary influx of cash would be selfish, and foolish.

Our National Lands have been set aside for the enjoyment of everybody. This forest I call home isn't mine, it belongs to every single American. Please respect the legacy of the people with the forethought to protect these small islands of mature forests. Oregon already leads the nation in timber production.

I will leave you with a quote from one of our greatest presidents, Theodore Roosevelt:

"Defenders of the short-sighted men who in their greed and selfishness will, if permitted, rob our country of half its charm by their reckless extermination of all useful and beautiful wild things sometimes seek to champion them by saying the 'the game belongs to the people.' So it does; and not merely to the people now alive, but to the unborn people.

"The 'greatest good for the greatest number' applies to the number within the womb of time, compared to which those now alive form but an insignificant fraction. Our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations. The movement for the conservation of wild life and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose, and method."

Thank you for your time,

Jacob Fancy