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Comments: Dear Sir/Madam,

The Northwest Forest Plan needs to better adhere to ecological principles. This includes how we manage our forests for fire.

Please bolster fire resistance and resilience by ensuring that the Plan preserves and restores mature and old-growth forests. Fire is vital to ecological processes. It rejuvenates fire-adapted ecosystems, regenerates fire-dependent species, and maintains habitat mosaics that enhance biodiversity. On the other hand, commercial logging for fuel reduction can negatively impact wildlife habitat, remove large fire-resistant trees, introduce invasive species, and create hazardous fire conditions. Standards must ensure that reducing fuels is both necessary and effective the Plan would permit logging.

Please replace the misguided era of attempted fire exclusion and aggressive fire suppression across public wildlands with a new paradigm of fire inclusion and ecological fire management. Among the elements of this new paradigm should be Indigenous co-management, with provisions for cultural burning (and eliminating bureaucratic barriers to implementing cultural burn projects) and expanding Indigenous wildland fire use with appropriate Indigenous workforce development.

Thank you,

CF Young