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Comments: My name is Karalyn Dorn and I'm writing to comment on the draft EIS for the proposed Northwest Forest Plan amendment.

As a nearly life-long resident of a Western Colorado community, I urge you to consider the wide variety of social and economic benefits National Forests provide for everyone in the region as a whole-not just timber, but also clean water, climate stability, quality of life, and outdoor recreation.

Fire resistance and resilience is critical now more than ever and can be bolstered by preserving and restoring mature and old-growth forests. Fuels and fire management should focus on the home ignition zone and on non-commercial treatments and beneficial fire use rather than commercial logging. Wildfire strategies should prioritize community safety and proven prevention measures. Standards must ensure that fuel reduction is both needed and effective before logging is allowed.

Indigenous cultural burning and wildland fire use should be prioritized. Commercial logging for fuel reduction can negatively impact wildlife habitat, remove large fire-resistant trees, introduce invasive species, and create hazardous fire conditions.

The Forest Service must reject plans that essentially weaken the core protections of the Northwest Forest Plan. A better approach includes the following measures:

- *Strengthen protections for mature and old-growth forests to ensure habitat, water quality, and carbon storage, and recruit more mature and old forests to restore a functional ecosystem.

- *Maintain or expand protections for the network of forest reserves to allow natural processes to flourish, ensure connectivity for wildlife, and support the recovery of imperiled species. Any reduction in forest reserve protections would increase harmful impacts such as habitat destruction, sediment in streams, and carbon loss.

- *Consultation with Tribes must respect their sovereignty and provide resources to support their full participation in decision-making. The Forest Service must support co-stewardship agreements, cultural burning practices, first food harvesting, and youth education while ensuring equitable access to planning processes.

Any amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan should recognize that a strong forest plan must incorporate modern scientific principles as well as public values. I urge you to accept a plan that will benefit local communities and prepare for the needs of future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karalyn Dorn