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Comments: Dear US Forest Service Representatives,

The legacy of Northwest Forest Plan over the last 30 years has been historic. The current plan is also outdated with new layers of understanding in forests ecosystems and the evolution of management practices coming to light over this timeframe. We can no longer manage forests without fire. The old way of thinking of stopping and putting out forests fires is unrealistic. Many of the forests in the Pacific Northwest have evolved with fire. Forests are now so thick with vegetation fuels from suppression that there is real work to be done. Combine heavy fuels that with changing climactic conditions of drier and hotter summers and milder winters, forests are now burning so big and hot in fires that in some cases, forests might not even grow back. The Forest Service has a duty to the American public to manage these lands for what we can anticipate into the future. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement lays out some very good pathways forward. I would also urge the forest service to consider strengthening a few components:

--Forest management beyond timber, include vegetation restorations, fire treatments, thinning, planting, and recreation planning and development. This will create jobs and be the most impactful for communities surrounding our National Forests as well as the forests many visitors.

--Dry forest management needs to be more aggressive. The western moist forests cannot be managed the same as eastern Cascades, and Klamath-Siskiyou forests. To start, use fire refugia zones to help identify areas for light management and then heavily manage around those areas to create fire breaks.

--Tribal alignment and partnerships taking a priority focus. This will be critical to treating the amount of acreage needed to turn the tide on historical fire suppression throughout the region and maintain the health of our public forest lands.

Thank you,

Shannon Browne