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First name: Lisa
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Comments: Dear Forest Service,

My family has been living and working in the Pacific Northwest for 4 generations. I care deeply about the ecological and economic health of our region. Since the implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan in the 1990's we have learned more about the role that forests play in ensuring the health of our planet.

The NWFP was created to safeguard and recover mature and old growth forests, protecting a wide range of flora and fauna as well as entire watersheds within these rich, biodiverse ecosystems. Three decades later, we recognize these forests as irreplaceable carbon sinks for our region, helping to mitigate climate change world-wide. We also know, that in an era of increased fire danger and invasive pests, our oldest forests are the most capable of resisting and surviving these threats.

Unfortunately, the proposed action alternatives refute the original purpose of the NWFP by threatening the old growth forests that the plan was created to protect. Incorporating Tribal knowledge and involvement in the management of our forests is of vital importance, particularly as we embrace the long-held practice of controlled burns. Formalizing the participation of the Tribes should not be linked to expanding access to logging.

As presented, the only viable option for honoring the original purpose of the NWFP is Alternative A - No Action; retaining current Northwest Forest Plan protections

In following it's mandate to care for the land and serve the people, we look to the Forest Service to draft an amendment that includes Tribal guidance in a meaningful and comprehensive way while simultaneously increasing protections for all trees 80 years and older within the NWFP boundaries. If we have learned anything in the past three decades, it is that we need undisturbed old growth forests more than ever. These forest in particular, hold greater long-term value as standing, living trees than as lumber.