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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Ms. Jacque Buchanan, Regional Forester:

I am writing to comment on the Forest Service's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) amendment. Because climate change is an issue...I live in the Pacific Northwest and I have seen the changes since I moved here 26 years ago. There is less winter snowpack and more wildfires now in western WA as well as eastern WA.

Because of this I support I support a modified Alternative B (B+) to better recruit old forests, burn dry forests, improve habitat connectivity, protect aquatic ecosystems, and restore old forests in Reserves.

There are many positives to the plan. The proposed NFP amendment protects old-growth forests and trees, restoring fire to the landscape, and improving ecological resilience of dry fire-prone forests. It also recognizes Tribal knowledge and meets indigenous treaty responsibilities.

However, there are changes I would like to see. Please reduce road density to improve wildlife habitat connectivity and reduce impacts from climate-induced flooding. Reduce road density to 1 mile road/mile² in key watersheds and to 2 miles of road/mile² outside key watersheds and hydrologically disconnect roads from water resources in all land allocations. Maintain the habitat connectivity emphasis in the Snoqualmie Pass Adaptive Management Area.

Promote old-growth recovery in dry forests by recruiting enough trees from the largest and oldest size class during stewardship actions to restore old-growth distribution and abundance on the landscape. Older and larger trees are inordinately important for storing carbon, supporting biological diversity, and resisting stress from fire, drought, and other disturbances.

Prioritize for ecological restoration of previously logged areas in wetter forests, especially in 80-120-year-old stands.

Remove guideline 1(b) from FORSTW-LSR-GDL for creating young forest in Late-Successional Reserves.

There will continue to be enough natural disturbances to create suitable amounts of complex early successional forest habitat so this guideline is unnecessary.

Thank you for considering my comments