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Comments: I am writing to provide comments on the amendments to the NW Forest Plan. I am an Oregon resident and a stakeholder in the management of public forest in Oregon, Washington and California. I am a professional Forester with a Master's degree in Science focused on Forests, Ecosystems, and Societies.

Evaluating NW Forest Plan and making amendments is an important to step working towards maintaining resilient public forests that provide a wide range of benefits. Changes are needed as our understanding of forest management has continued to progress we have a better understanding of the impacts of climate change, fire, and different uses on the health and long-term viability of our forests.

Working towards more fire resilient forests is very important but this must be done following our understanding of natural forest processes not as non-specific treatment policies. Developing and protecting older forests with more complex ecosystems should be incorporated into fire protection policy. Ideas of fuels reduction and human access should not be used to change existing policy that protect mature and old growth forests. Fuel reduction treatments should be evaluated by evaluating and understanding the forest types and history and this should be used to determine if any specific fire reduction treatments are needed that mirrors classic natural functions.

The process of forest management (especially in venerable forests) should involve many voices and going through the NEPA process should continue to ensure expertise and accountability from many public and private stakeholders is taken into account. I have concerns that the proposed changes to the NW Forest plan too greatly allow federal decisions without accountability to the public and other stakeholders for management decisions. All decisions that allow for felling, road development/access, and fire treatments should go through the proper research and public accountability process.