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Comments: Introduction

My name is Madison Fowler. I am a PhD candidate at the University of Oregon in Environmental Science, Studies, and Policy and have been living in Eugene for over six years. I am most personally committed to Tribal sovereignty and environmental justice in the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) and want to encourage the U.S. Forest Service to prioritize these things in the amendment.

Centering Tribal Inclusion/Sovereignty

I support the NWFP implementing strategies that center Tribal sovereignty and self-determination over decisions that impact the Tribes, and urge the Forest Service to center Tribal sovereignty at all levels of implementation. This is not a matter of race, it is a matter of nation-to-nation cooperation and respect for those who have maintained these landscapes since long before the Forest Service and other agencies assumed control. Indigenous knowledges about land management are crucial to include, but this inclusion must be done by including Indigenous peoples, not just by appropriating or adopting their knowledges without their presence, guidance, leadership, and wants and needs in mind.

I support the NWFP maintaining all recommended Tribal inclusion measures from Alternative B, regardless of which combination of alternatives are decided upon for the future of northwest forest management. Other Tribal inclusion measures from Alternative D (which do not appear in other Alternatives) must also be included in the final plan.

I also support the NWFP prioritization of Indigenous fire practices and urge to Forest Service to bring Indigenous fire practices-both Indigenous led burning and Indigenous cultural fire-to the forefront of the plan. Decades of fire suppression have left the PNW (and much of the continent) and its human and nonhuman inhabitants vulnerable to increasingly violent wildfires. Indigenous fire practitioners conducting both cultural and Tribally-led prescribed fires should be involved in fire management activities in the NWFP area at every level, and should be in roles of leadership for these activities.

I also support the full incorporation of Indigenous science and ecological knowledges with the same urgency and legitimacy as western science to successfully manage these forests for the future. This means bringing on and centering Indigenous peoples and communities and allowing them the full scope of participation and decision-making for all NWFP decisions.

Centering Environmental Justice

I support the NWFP centering environmental justice (EJ) in the proposed amendment process but worry that understandings of EJ in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement do not fully capture the essence of EJ and its urgency and importance.

I urge the NWFP to give greater attention to toxicities risks for forest workers, which include fire retardants, pesticides, herbicides, and other chemicals utilized in forest management. I also urge the NWFP to assess and

protect relationships with forests for recreational and other purposes (including cultural purposes) that diverse communities hold. This must be part of project analysis from the start and done in consultation with the people impacted (culturally, economically, and otherwise) by forest management plans. This also includes prioritizing lesser-known recreation that does not meet the expectations of settler recreation activities.

I do not support language such as "unskilled" and "nonskilled" in the NWFP, and hope that the Forest Service will amend this offensive language to honor and value the work that forest workers (including Latinx/e workers and workers who are immigrants) do.

Additionally, the NWFP must also make space to provide further consultation, safety measures, language-inclusive communication beyond only translation, and fair compensation for forest workers of all backgrounds.

The NWFP must additionally prioritize safe, fair, and equitable workplaces in consultation with forest workers in order to meet the needs of both the forest and the communities who work in the forest.

Final Thoughts: Community Peer Review

I urge the NWFP to adopt a policy akin to community peer review, conceptualized and practiced by Max Liboiron's CLEAR Lab and outlined in *Pollution is Colonialism* (2021), for all projects at the landscape and site-specific levels. This requires allowing communities impacted by forest service activities to not only consent, but also refuse, forest service projects in the area. While this is a difficult thing to balance, especially between competing interests in communities, this community peer review process must specifically, above all else, honor Tribal sovereignty. This is not about race. It is about the sovereign nation status of Tribal communities and their connections to these landscapes since time immemorial.