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Organization:

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Comments: I am Diana Bernstein and a retired health professional. I moved to Corvallis from the East coast in 2001. I fell in love with the almost immediate access to the forest and hiking trails around Corvallis. Then I met the old growth forests and I was overwhelmed by the beauty, strength, and resiliency of the old growth forests.

I am thankful to be given the opportunity to comment on the draft EIS for the proposed Northwest Forest Plan. These forests are important to me and all of us for their present and on-going supply of carbon dioxide storage and their resiliency to fire. There will always be fire, it is a natural occurrence but an old growth varied forest can withstand the onslaught in comparison to a tree plantation.

Once old growth is logged, there is no easy opportunity for us to fix it . A short term decision for monetary gain upsets not only our immediate environment but for many generations to come.

The more we destroy, the more we find ourselves trying to fix problems we have created. Sufficient drinking water is and will continue to be a major concern for all citizens. Forests know how to conserve and protect stream water as well provide habitat for coho salmon and other imperiled species.

I feel that the forests are for all and not just those who wish to cut timber. The old growth as described have been with us for a very long time giving us habitat, clean water, and climate stability. Following Tribal stewardship practices and including Tribal nations who have a long history of proactive stewardship should be included in this crucial planning process.

Please strengthen protections for all the forest reserves and allow Mother Nature to continue to nourish and protect habitats for all of us and future generations not just a few timber producers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Diana Bernstein
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