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First name: Elisabeth

Last name: Gainer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Elisabeth Gainer, I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the Portland metro area where I reside with my spouse and dog. Forests are incredibly important to me and a place I visit on a weekly basis either alone, with my family, or friends. The access to forests are vital to my personal mental health and are a place I go to reconnect with myself and the natural world. I frequently recommend hiking or spending time in forests to my mental health clients, as being surrounded by nature can absolutely improve someone's mental health. Forest reserves are vital to my family as well, my husband is an avid fly fisherman and forest health directly impacts rivers and the fish that live there. I value having access to public forests and believe all people should have access as well, and that's why it's incredibly important to keep our public forests intact, otherwise we won't have anywhere to go or our remaining forests will be hurt by overuse. I also love birdwatching and really enjoy learning about new plants and animals, and the natural world needs our support to maintain their habitat to allow species a place to live. Industry does not have a personal connection to the land, the community, and is completely removed from the impact removing a forest will have on us; industry does not have my best interest or the forests best interest in mind. That's why I believe the forests need to stay public and allow the public to have clear voice in what happens to our land, because we live here. Thank you.