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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Foresters Buchanan and Eberlien,

I am a member of Great Old Broads for Wilderness. I've been visiting the multiple national forests for over 60 years. I enjoy recreational activities such as rafting, hiking, and restoring my soul by drawing in those forests.

Please accept this comment on the draft EIS for the proposed Northwest Forest Plan amendment.

The Forest Service must reject plans to weaken core protections of the Northwest Forest Plan, and do the following:

- Strengthen protections for mature and old-growth forests to ensure habitat, water quality, and carbon storage, and recruit more mature and old forests to restore a functional ecosystem.
- Maintain or expand protections for the network of forest reserves to allow natural processes to flourish, ensure connectivity for wildlife, and support the recovery of imperiled species. Any reduction in forest reserve protections would increase harmful impacts such as habitat destruction, sediment in streams, and carbon loss, further endangering sensitive ecosystems.
- Consult with Tribes, respect their sovereignty, and provide resources to support their full participation in decision-making. Support co-stewardship agreements, cultural burning practices, first food harvesting, and youth education while ensuring equitable access to planning processes. Pairing these components with the Forest Service's plan for weakened environmental protections is a false choice manufactured by the agency.
- Analyze impacts on air, water, and communities to create fair, sustainable working conditions.
- Shift wildfire strategies to prioritize community safety and proven prevention measures over logging.

We desperately need a strong forest plan that incorporates modern science and public values, and stops burning down forests!

Thank you.