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First name: Claire

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello Forest Service-

My name is Claire Cereghino, and I am an avid trail runner, mountain biker, backcountry skier, birder and fish friend utilizing forests in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska regions. As a user of trails and open space, I strongly encourage you to continue to protect and expand protections for Forest Reserves. As an individual who recreates and regular travels to the Tongass, the Deschutes, Willamette and Mt. Hood National Forest, I value wildlife habitat, clean water and old growth forests. I strongly encourage you to strengthen and expand protections for forest reserves, as opposed to designating them for logging. I am an avid birder, amongst other things, and value the habitat space for imperiled species such as the northern spotted owl. I am also a salmon aficionado, through and through, and I cannot stress enough the importance of maintaining habitat for Cohos throughout the forest. This keystone species cannot be replaced, and we must do everything in our power to provide them an appropriate habitat. This means limiting logging, providing the utmost protections to our rivers within the forest, and prioritizing the forest for the sake of keystone species habitat. Having lived in Alaska for years, and having the genuine pleasure of seeing what a true healthy salmon run looked like many years ago, I want nothing more than to see that in the Northwest. I want my public lands to prioritize this! I, under no circumstances, want to see my public lands logged, ravaged and turned into a timber company.

Additionally, as a trail runner, I value access to simple things like trailheads and well maintained public bathrooms (have you ever been on your way to run 15 miles after a greasy breakfast burrito??? Let me tell you, that situation is happening, one way or another. As an environmentally conscious runner, I always carry an extra wag bag with me, because you just never know when you're going to have to take a roadside shit. It happens to all of us!!! But I guarantee you, that's not the approach of the majority of the population). These simple services are of vital importance to allow us access to our public lands without decimating them, and are not something that can be maintained by, say, "leaning into our public volunteers"

In summary. Salmon habitat. Bird habitat. A clean trailhead toilet. These are things I value MANY TIMES more than anything that could come from the aggressive logging of MY public lands.

Thanks in advance for doing the right thing, as opposed to logging things into oblivion. Looking at you Mr. Schultz.