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Comments: The forest plan for the Blue Mountain Forests is an important opportunity to protect a resource for future generations. Please

1. Include strong, enforceable standards with measurable objectives that protect mature and old forests, streams and water quality, wildlife, connectivity, unroaded areas, and carbon storage.

Maintain and strengthen enforceable standards in the current plan.

2. Maintain the protected corridors that support wildlife. Prioritize protections for wildlife and wildlife habitats, large habitat blocks, and landscape-level connectivity. The Blue Mountains contain unique and irreplaceable habitat for numerous imperiled species such as wolverine, lynx, wolves, moose, and more. Strengthen existing standards for connectivity between blocks of mature and old forests- do NOT weaken or eliminate them.

3. Protect large trees and mature and old forests. Keep- and strengthen- the protective standards for large trees that have been in place for the past 30 years. There are clear benefits of large trees for fire resistance, wildlife habitat, providing clean water, and carbon storage- do not roll back the clear, enforceable standards that have protected large trees since 1996.

4. Strong, enforceable standards are needed to protect streams, fish, and water quality. A central component of any Forest Plan Revision for the Blue Mountains must include safeguards for fish and other aquatic and riparian species that depend on a sufficient quantity of clean, cold water in streams, rivers, tributaries, and wetlands.

5. We need more environmental protections to keep communities safe- NOT more logging.

Logging in the backcountry will not make communities safer. Working near communities, home hardening, and emergency preparedness are more effective strategies for keeping homes and communities safe.

The primary threat to homes is from grassfires, not forest fires. Most homes that burned in the US in recent years were destroyed by grass and shrub fire, not forest fires.

Most homes are burned by large, fast moving fires. Fast-moving wildfires comprise less than 3% of all U.S. fire events- but they account for 89% of all structures damaged or destroyed.

Large, fast-moving wildfires are primarily driven by climate. These fires are primarily driven by drought, heat, and wind- not by "fuels".

The majority of fire ignitions that cross jurisdictional boundaries start on private lands, not public lands.

6. No post-fire or salvage logging.

Burned forests provide vital and delicate wildlife habitat that is essential for many species and is rare compared to historic norms. These rare "snag forests" should be left to their own natural recovery processes.

7. We need more Wilderness to help preserve mature and old forests, clean water, and biodiversity. All undeveloped roadless areas that satisfy the definition of Wilderness found in the Wilderness Act must be evaluated and considered for recommendation as potential Wilderness areas during forest plan revisions.

8. Stop killing large carnivores and other native wildlife on public lands, and provide the strongest possible standards to protect them.

The Blue Mountains encompass unique and important connectivity corridors and wildlife habitats that support species such as wolves, moose, wolverine, and more. These animals require and deserve protection and places to roam and exist. Wolves, large carnivores, and other native species evolved with and are integral to the ecosystems in which they evolved. Native wildlife, including large carnivores, should not be killed on public land in order to favor private interests in cattle or other domesticated livestock on National Forests in the Blue Mountains.

9. Stricter standards are needed to protect aquatic ecosystems and sensitive habitats from livestock grazing. Include an alternative in the Forest Plan Revision that reduces livestock grazing. Such an alternative should consider reducing permitted livestock use in the planning area by approximately 25-40 percent from current authorized levels, based on site capability and ecological conditions.

Cattle should be excluded from all fish-bearing streams that support species listed as Threatened or Endangered

under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Thank you for considering the long term health of the Blue Mountains Forest in the updated forest plan.