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Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing about the revised forest plan. I want strong protections for forests- and oppose rolling back or weakening existing protections, as is currently proposed. There must be strong, enforceable, and mandatory standards that protect wildlife, clean water, carbon, and ecosystem integrity in the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision. We need strong standards to protect forests, not more logging!

The revised Forest Plan must contain strong, enforceable standards with measurable objectives that protect mature and old forests, streams and water quality, wildlife, connectivity, roadless areas, and carbon storage. 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.

Please strengthen existing standards for connectivity between blocks of mature and old forests- NOT weaken or eliminate them. 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.

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.

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.

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.

Prioritize protecting ecosystem resilience to climate change. The Forest Plan Revision must include the strongest possible protections in order to give species and ecosystems the best chances at adapting to and surviving climate change.

I appreciate your time and effort. Increase the protections in the Blue Mountains for forest health, biodiversity, climate resilience and more!