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Comments: I want to see the final Blue Mountains Forest Plan prioritize: 1) water retention and quality; 2) adaptive capacity to climate change and other impacts; 3) biodiversity, including habitat diversity and ecological connectivity; 4) local climate mitigation and 5) robust co-management with Tribes.

1) PROTECT WATER RETENTION AND QUALITY. Protect the land's capacity to hold and store water by repairing and enhancing natural hydrologic processes, e.g. via low-input process based restoration and pro-beaver wildlife management. In a future guaranteed to have more droughts and less snowpack, storage of rainwater and large pulses of spring snowmelt must be a very high priority. The best place to store water (for both quality and quantity) is in floodplains, in other soils high in organic matter, in the living tissues of plants, and in groundwater. Beavers are our best ally for holding water in riparian systems. Process based restoration can mimic what beavers do and give them a chance to reestablish where they are absent. Healthy soils with plenty of organic matter and intact fungal networks store water outside of riparian systems. Transpiration of trees and other plants plays a key role in the "small water cycle," recirculating moisture in the local landscape as large weather systems move on.

2) PROTECT ADAPTIVE CAPACITY. Ecological resilience requires diversity, redundancy, and connectivity, and is shaped by the state of slow variables and feedbacks loops that often escape monitoring attention (e.g. soil organic matter, pollinator populations, nutrient cycling, etc). Maintaining large patches of intact habitat where human pressures are relatively low is the single best thing we can do to protect our landscape's ability to handle climate change and other shocks, adapt, and evolve. We should be proud of the diverse roadless landscapes we've so far maintained in the Blue Mountains--and continue to maintain them as a deep reservoir of biodiversity and fully functional natural processes. We should also improve long-term monitoring to attend more carefully to slow feedback loops.

3) PROTECT BIODIVERSITY. We are in a global extinction crisis. We can do our part to slow the losses by protecting: rare forest and habitat types (e.g. our remaining old growth patches, bunchgrass ecosystems; and the cool-moist closed canopy forests of our landscape's deep north-facing drainages); intact roadless areas (which buffer against climate change and other impacts); connectivity for wildlife (especially along low-gradient fish bearing streams); snags and large-diameter trees; and intercontinental avian migration corridors.

4) MITIGATE LOCAL CLIMATE EXTREMES. Intact forests and healthy native ecosystems not only support climate adaptation, they also help mitigate local climate extremes by: breaking wind; holding water in the soil and humidity in the low atmosphere (small water cycle); shading streams and the ground (thereby cooling water and the air); slowing floods and fires; and providing reservoirs of biodiversity, seeds, fertility and more for recovering from extreme weather and other climate impacts. My kids will breathe healthier air if our intact forests are left that way.

5) CO-MANAGE LAND WITH TRIBES. Robust Co-management with the Tribes who call this land their homeland is one way to keep our focus on maintaining and enhancing the long-term abundance of the resources that actually support human beings to thrive here. We can extract from this landscape for commodities to trade for dollars and cents, or we can do what Tribes' economic systems have done successfully here for thousands of

years: maintain an abundance of food, water, materials, vitality, and relationship. Tribal treaties protect (and their stories and cultural practices affirm and maintain) reciprocal relationships with the foundational abundance that has sustained people in this place forever. It's both ethical and practical to practice co-management with Tribes.