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First name: Donna

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team,

I am writing as a citizen who was born in Oregon and have lived here nearly all of my life, in Astoria, Roseburg, Tillamook and now in Portland. I have always appreciated the many benefits which I took for granted growing up - being able to fish, ride trails

on my horse, backpack, climb our mountains and find solace in the quiet of forests, meadows, rivers and the ocean shores. As an adult I have enjoyed visiting these wild places with friends and family on many vacations which have been important to us for recreation

and renewal. I have always found them to be places of solace to me, to appreciate the wild beauty of such places, knowing they are home to so many species which contribute to the health of our home, Oregon. Just this past summer, my loved ones had another

family reunion, in Wallowa County, where three generations of Oregonians enjoyed the beautiful landscape of these mountains, forests and rivers.

I have also had the satisfaction of introducing children to the wonders of our wild areas through volunteer work such as Outdoor School. In addition, I have introduced many adults to the beautiful landscapes and the amazing life within them, through volunteering

with a number of organizations in our Oregon State Parks, and National Forests, Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area and Cape Falcon Marine Reserves and Protected Areas, as well as

several of The Nature Conservancy's sites. As a volunteer in those wild places, I have met a lot of visitors to Oregon who express how much they value the beauty and vibrancy of our landscapes, and enjoy the many forms of outdoor recreation available

here. My friends and family who live there appreciate how important these visitors are to support and maintain the local economies who are dependent on that tourism.

It is from this background that I write to you, on behalf of myself, my family, and the many friends and visitors I have encountered in these places, to oppose the management changes being proposed in the 2026 Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision DEIS.

The Blue Mountains encompass some of the Northwest's most diverse, wild, and cherished places. These landscapes are worth more for their intact and recovering ecosystems than for commercial logging. I am especially disturbed by the plan to triple

logging by targeting mature and old-growth trees. Intact mature forest provides critical habitat for myriad bird species and other wildlife. Furthermore, logging, even so called thinning operations, can profoundly impact birds and other wildlife, and should

not be prioritized over habitat considerations. I know from my years of Citizen Science data collections for such studies as Cascades Pika Watch and various bird counts for Bird Alliance of Oregon, how sensitive many species are to such disruptions.

I urge you to analyze and adopt an alternative which:

Protects mature trees and forest stands, leaving in place the "21 inch rule".

Prioritizes ecosystem health over commercial logging. Pointedly, this does not mean using wildfire to justify commercial harvest. Wildfire treatments should only be undertaken when and where absolutely necessary, should prioritize prescribed

and cultural burning, and should be guided by the best available science.

Prioritizes habitat connectivity across the management area.

Includes explicit protections for Inventoried Roadless Areas as they currently exist, and expands wilderness protections.

Includes management plans for species of conservation concern.

Includes a plan to manage the landscape for greatest carbon sequestration benefit.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Donna AcordDonna J Acord