Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/1/2026 7:00:00 AM
First name: Amanda
Last name: Watson
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team,

I am writing today in opposition to 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. This includes benefits of recreational, tourism,

and climate resilience.

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 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,

Amanda Watson