Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2015

Jim Pena, Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service, Region Six
1220 SW Third Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Randy Moore, Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service, Region Five
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592

Dear Regional Forester Pena and Moore:

Recently, the Forest Service announced that it would be holding three public listening sessions to begin collecting public input on upcoming revisions to the Northwest Forest Plan, one each in Seattle, Washington; Portland, Oregon; and Redding, California. While we strongly support efforts to gather public input, we are concerned by the limited number and urban focus of these listening sessions. We request the Forest Service hold additional listening sessions in rural forested communities throughout the Northwest, where the residents feel the impacts of plan changes most directly.

For over 30 years, the Northwest Forest Plan has profoundly impacted the communities within our districts and any revisions to the plan will have a similar effect. Holding only three listening sessions disadvantages our constituents in these rural communities. Many of our constituents would have to travel several hours and hundreds of miles to participate. The cost and time commitments involved would likely present an unacceptable hardship for many residents who would otherwise participate in these sessions.

While incorporating the latest science and revising the Northwest Forest Plan is long overdue, the Forest Service should take all steps possible to ensure that the public has ample opportunities to participate. Once again, we urge you to hold additional listening sessions in a wider variety of locations to ensure that our constituents, both urban and rural, can have their voices heard and their input considered.

Sincerely,

GREG WALDEN
Member of Congress

PETER DEFAZIO
Member of Congress

JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER
Member of Congress

KURT SCHRADER
Member of Congress

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