



North Central Washington
AUDUBON SOCIETY

North Central Washington Audubon Society
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September 6, 2019

Julie Armbruster
Forest Legacy Program Manager
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
1111 Washington Street SE
P.O. Box 47014
Olympia, WA 98504-7014

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE EASTERN CASCADES WORKING FOREST PROJECT at NASON RIDGE.

Dear Julie,

North Central Washington Audubon Society (NCWAS) is a local chapter of the National Audubon Society with approximately 500 members in Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan and Ferry Counties. We've been engaged with the Eastern Cascades Working Forest Nason Ridge Project (ECWFPNR) from its inception. We fully support it and the goals it seeks to achieve.

The welfare of our region's birds is the primary concern, and thereby focus, of NCWAS's conservation program. Our work encompasses the protection, enhancement, and/or restoration of what they need to survive and thrive. As a group, birds occupy and utilize the entirety of our lands and waters. Given this, the scope of our conservation work takes an expansive view. We believe ECWFPNR takes an equally broad view, and if realized, has the potential to benefit the region's people, economy, fish and wildlife, and a wide range of habitats important to birds.

We also view ECWFPNR as an important component of the region's efforts to build fire and climate resiliency into its forests. As we understand it, the plan under development for the tract will encompass a mix of the more enlightened management tools developed in recent years that will promote the values mentioned above, while also creating a more fire resilient landscape.

Finally, ECWFPNR represents an uncommon opportunity, in that it offers the potential for multiple benefits with no apparent downside. A combination very worthy of the resources and effort needed to see it fully realized.

Sincerely,

Mark Johnston
Conservation Chair, North Central Washington Audubon Society