



January 13, 2023

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Glen Casamassa
Regional Forester, Pacific Northwest Region
1220 SW 3rd Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mr. Casamassa:

On behalf of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR), I am nominating Jose Linares to the Federal Advisory Committee for sustainable, climate-adapted, wildfire-resilient landscapes across the Northwest Forest Plan Area.

NAFSR is encouraged by the establishment of this Advisory Committee and recognizes its potential to significantly influence policies and strategies for landscape management approaches in the Northwest Forest Plan Area that promote sustainability as well as climate-adapted and wildfire resilient landscapes. Linares has deep roots in

western Oregon and broad knowledge and experience planning, coordinating, and monitoring implementation of the NW Forest Plan with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service, at the local and regional level. We believe he would be an excellent addition to the committee.

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Linares retired in March 2021 as the District Manager for the Northwest Oregon BLM District after a distinguished thirty-nine-year career with the Forest Service and BLM. He has experience at the local, regional, and national levels in a variety of positions, including thirteen years as a line officer with both the Forest Service and the BLM; and nine years as a Regional Director for the Pacific Northwest Region, including Director of Natural Resources, Director of Engineering and Director of Recreation, Lands and Minerals.

Linares has extensive experience working across resource areas and building collaborative partnerships. As the Staff Officer for Strategic Planning and Analysis on the Siuslaw National Forest from 1994 to 1999, he was the primary lead for coordinating implementation of the newly released Northwest Forest Plan. Linares forged strong partnerships with the science community, conservation organizations and forest industry and helped pioneer innovative, adaptive management projects at the landscape scale. In this position, he also had a lead role in crafting the Siuslaw's creative, partnership-based approach to landscape restoration, the use of stewardship contracts, thinning of plantations and road management.

Linares's diverse knowledge and skill set was recognized by both the Forest Service and BLM, and he was often asked to lead special projects and initiatives (see attached supplemental information); as well as cover key leadership positions when vacancies occurred. He twice served as Acting Deputy Regional Forester for the Pacific Northwest Region, served as the Acting Director of Recreation, Lands and Minerals, and the Acting State Director for OR/WA BLM.

Since his retirement, Linares continues to be active in natural resources. He serves on the Board of Directors of Straub Outdoors. Straub Outdoors is a nonprofit organization offering nature-based educational programs that increase science literacy, promote sustainable approaches to daily life, create an understanding of the natural world, and inspire ecological stewardship. One of Straub's top priorities is to outreach to underserved communities and providing bilingual, culturally responsive outdoor education for Latino-identifying students. Linares also serves on the Board of Directors for Friends of Fish Lake and is the chair of the Restoration Committee for

NAFSR. In his role with NAFSR, he was responsible for coordinating NAFSR's response to the request by the agencies for comments on Old Growth and Mature Forest definitions.

Given Linares's background and engagement with diverse organizations, we believe he would qualify well as either a representative of a conservation organization (NAFSR and/or Straub), recreation organization (Straub and/or Fish Lake), or an organization involved in outreach with underserved communities (Straub).

Thank you for considering our nomination of Jose Linares to serve on this committee.

Sincerely,

Steve Ellis

Steve Ellis, Chair

National Association of Forest Service Retirees

Enclosures