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Good morning, Commissioners and other commenters.

Today, we are in an unprecedented fire event with Santa Ana-like winds, smoke, and high temperatures in the Gorge. This year's Mosier Creek fire caused many to lose their homes. It's been three years since the Eagle Creek Fire, and today's conditions are worse than on that day. Yet, the fire management plan for the Gorge is still a secret and the public cannot inspect it or comment on it.

I am here today to ask that the Commission include a periodic public review of the fire management plan for the Gorge in its 2020 Management Plan final draft. This review should happen at not fewer than five-year intervals. Today, we have no stated policy on recreation site closures, no visibility into resource planning, no public involvement in policy decisions, and a lack of communication with the public on fire danger. The only fire closure order in effect on National Forest lands is one dated July 1. The Forest Service's Twitter account was silent the entire Labor Day weekend, with dangerous fire conditions in the region.

We have a sacred duty to protect the Gorge, and the many species it supports, for future generations. We haven't learned from the mistakes of the past. The only way we can live up to our responsibility is to have an open, periodic review of the fire management plan for the Gorge. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Chris Carvalho