



Dear Jacqueline Buchanan, Regional Forester for the Pacific Northwest Region,

Thank you for requesting public input on the USDA's Notice of Intent to amend the Northwest Forest Plan. In response to this request, **612 members of the public** submitted comments throughout the months of January and February 2024 via the [KS Wild website](#) calling for conservation of mature and old-growth trees and forests, consultation with local Tribal Nations and incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge, and bolstering efforts to recover wildlife, recognizing the ongoing threat of climate change and past management practices.

The attached spreadsheet includes the names of the people who submitted comments, their unique comment if they submitted one, and the date of submission. We have not altered any of the text entered into the form.

Below is the text of the comment that people signed on to:

*Dear Forest Service,*

*Thank you for accepting this scoping comment in support of the Forest Service's proposed amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP). The forests of the NFP region are vital to our region, providing cold, clean water for people and wildlife, inspiring places for contemplation and recreation, older forests home to rare species, climate change mitigation, and job opportunities.*

*In modernizing the NFP, it is crucial that we ensure that these ecosystem services continue to flow from our national forests and that they are able to adapt to a changing climate. Here are key considerations for the changes to the NFP:*

*First, the amendment must protect and conserve mature and old-growth trees and forests in both moist and seasonally dry forests. While the NFP reserved many older forests in 1994, it did*

*not protect them all, which has led to controversy among stakeholders. Thus, the NFP amendment must sustain and replenish older trees and forests into the future. Second, the amendment must recognize and address the effects of climate change, particularly the increase in very large and severe wildfires. While the NFP considers the essential role that wildfire plays in our forests, the size and severity of wildfires has far exceeded expectations. The Forest Service should reassess current management strategies in light of escalating wildfire threats and consider incorporating Indigenous cultural burning practices. In general, consultation with local Tribal Nations and incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge will be critical steps for the Forest Service to take in amending the Northwest Forest Plan.*

*Third, conservation of the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and native salmonids was a cornerstone of the 1994 NFP, and an amendment should only maintain and enhance protections for at-risk fish and wildlife. The NFP amendment should bolster efforts to recover wildlife, recognizing the ongoing threat of climate change and past management practices. To protect biodiversity in the era of climate change, the amendment must ensure habitat resilience from disturbances such as wildfire, drought, disease, and insects.*

*Finally, the amendment should recognize shifts in our region's socioeconomic landscape since 1994. While forest management will always be a part of the Pacific Northwest economy, recreation and other pursuits now draw more people to our region than ever before. Building a modern forest restoration workforce will contribute to ecological resilience of our National Forests and ensure continued public enjoyment of these lands we all value.*

*Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the Forest Service's proposed climate-smart amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan.*

*Sincerely,*