



February 1, 2024

Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service
1220 SW 3rd Avenue
Portland, OR 98204

Submitted via webform at <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public//CommentInput?Project=6745>

RE: Comments to the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement for Forest Plan Amendment for the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan (NFWP)

The Community of Trout Lake is situated adjacent to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Klickitat County, Washington. Our economy is based on agriculture, forest products, and recreation. The community is also considered at high risk from uncharacteristic wildfire events.

There is a need to amend the NFWP to address those needs identified in the NOI. As a community with close ties to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest we see the need to provide land managers with increased flexibility to adapt to changing conditions and new scientific information.

Climate change and an expanding wildland urban interface (WUI) are driving the need to create forests that are more resilient and resistant to uncharacteristic wildfire. The Environmental Impact Statement should evaluate tools such as mechanical treatment and prescribed fire to achieve such objectives while also improving forest health and stand conditions within and adjacent to habitats essential for the viability of the Northern Spotted Owl and other Old Growth dependent species. Land managers need flexibility to design and implement projects at the local level that focus on improved forest resiliency, reduced risk to communities of uncharacteristic wildfire, and also support local economies dependent upon National Forest resources.

We are interested in being informed and engaged in the planning process. Please include our email address (troutlakecommunitycouncil@gmail.com) in any future notices regarding this project.

Respectfully,

DAINA L. BAMBE
Chair, Trout Lake Community Council