

Please accept the following Comments:

A fresh look at Northwest Forest Plan in 2024 must include the following considerations:

In the dry Forests of northern California, which have changed significantly recently due to intense, extensive wildfires, a distinction should be made. These Forests have been able to support more Northern Spotted Owls for a longer period of time compared to Washington and Oregon. NSO are an indicator species for which the Northwest Forest Plan was designed. A look back to evaluate the monitoring would be appropriate.

It is critical to enhance management practices in the following areas:

- Providing Connectivity for wildlife by preserving all LSRs which provide large blocks of contiguous forest, and then adding Wildlife Corridors between them
- Leaving all large diameter trees and snags throughout the forest, even if they have burned
- Enlarge Riparian Reserves, including along all ephemeral and intermittent streams. These streams may receive larger sudden precipitation events than in the past, or receive precipitation more often, due to Climate Change. Riparian Reserves need to exclude logging and machinery in these enlarged areas and protected to minimize sediment and provide cold water for fish and Refugia for all forms of life. Instead of just Mechanical Exclusion Zones only at boundaries of wet areas during the summer months, include larger buffers around ephemeral and intermittent streams.
- Biodiversity is an overall need and Riparian Reserves are keys.
- Prioritize updated evaluation of Road System Network, and “waterproof” all of them. Waterproof and eliminate those no longer needed, especially those that are far from mills and that do not serve as safety routes for communities.
- Climate Resilience is key to the future as unknown conditions may even change moist forests areas to become dry forest areas during the Plan, so the Forest Service must anticipate many possibilities
- Monitoring is essential in guiding management as these Northwest Forests continue to evolve

- AMAs in the old Plan are outdated and it would be good to delete them and to create some new places for Experimental Forests and be studied by FS Research Stations and carefully monitored
- Tribal inclusion in all aspects must be greatly increased on their ancestral lands
- Shift to Hardwood Tree preservation and their inclusion in planting for new plantations, to prepare for shifting conditions and for biodiversity
- Restore all plantations as they are most prone to fire.
- Restoration work in Plantations will provide work for sustainable communities, and is needed right now.
- WUI Areas (Wildland Urban Interface) need the most management efforts to provide both protection from wildfires and safe evacuation from extreme events including floods and fire. WUI Areas can provide firewood and timber supply and are most accessible for intensive management, allowing distant forests to provide the needed biodiversity, cold water, wildlife connectivity in LSRs and between them, old growth and mature trees, Refugia for aquatic species in Riparian Reserves applying Aquatic Conservation Strategy.
- In order to achieve these changes, a greater Forest Service Budget is needed to provide improved personnel capacity aside from Fire.

Sincerely,

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South Fork Trinity Up-River Friends