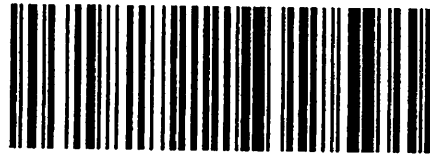


Ed Bowen
PO Box 111
Clallam Bay, WA 98326



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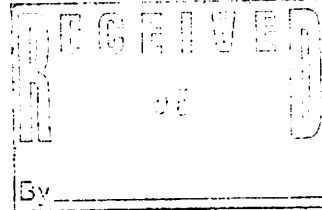
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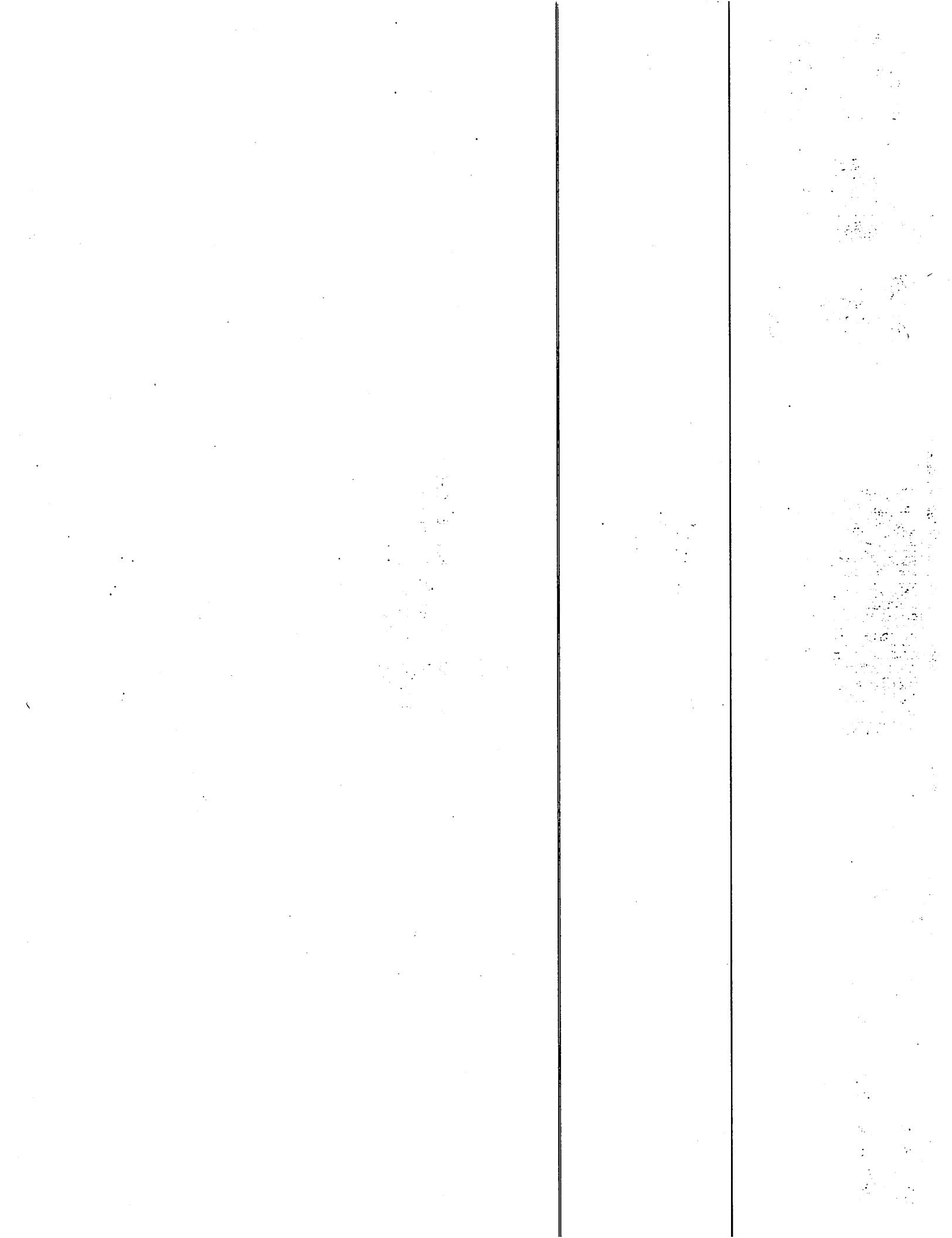
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Regional Forester, Region 6 USFS
Attn: NW Forest Plan Comments
1220 SW 3rd Ave.
Portland, OR 97204



2 February 2024

Regional Forester, Region 6, U.S. Forest Service
Attn: Northwest Forest Plan Comments
1220 SW 3rd Ave., Portland, OR, 97204

Subject: Individual citizen's comments to the process as identified in the Federal Register as Document 2024-00311, Document Citation 89 FR 1518 Page 1518, Region 5 and Region 6; California, Oregon, and Washington; Forest Plan Amendment for Planning and Management of Northwest Forests Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl; Correction and simply, **Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposal to amend the 17 land management plans of the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) specific.**

Dear Regional Forester and any respect due, find my comments subject to the following statement as a matter of self-defense and preservation as such a matter of my rights granted as enabable in the Declaration of Independence as reference, but also the 10th Amendment to the US Constitution.

My comments and needs are private information and unless notified of the need, should only be provided outside those with a true need to know, to protect my privacy and individual rights in such activities as the Freedom of Information Act.

- Regarding the publicized statement in respect for we the people and failure of due process:
 - “robust public engagement”.
 - engagement not defined
 - Resulting in: *“There will be limited time for questions and unofficial feedback. The virtual open house will offer more time for questions and feature a panel of agency staff working on the amendment. Feedback shared at these events will not be considered official comments for purposes of standing to file objections.”*
 - This is not taken out of context because this is the reality this government in service to we the people has a non-constitutional based definition of “robust”.
 - DEADLINE for submitting comments that possibly would be considered official comments for purposes of standing to file objections is prior to the Virtual Open House where such a limitation on due process is only being offered. One therefore has to comment that such is subject to additional comment after the virtual open house (Feb 8) and thus creating standing on that point.
 - Adding insult to injury, to offer: *“An additional official comment period will also follow the draft Environmental Impact Statement, currently estimated*

to be available by summer of 2024.” is just another layer of disengagement for the robust public engagement, leaving me to believe and present the plan to plan is not ready at this time to submit for public comment; guessing at a future date for what this citizen claims is a false promise is just a diversion to the sworn oath those in the administration have taken.

- This approach has the cart chasing the horse. A process that hasn't worked throughout this plan's lifespan and needs to be amended in itself to providing true robust public engagement.

- *Amendments to this plan will be informed by findings in the Bioregional Assessment and Science Synthesis as well as input from the Federal Advisory Committee and a range of other interested organizations and individuals. This effort builds on the agency's Northwest Forest Plan work, including information gathers via monitoring, listening sessions and bioregional Assessment.*
 - *Bioregional Assessment not provided we the people, we cannot at this time comment on the validity of such an aspect for making amendments to the plan*
 - *Science Synthese not provided we the people, we cannot at this time comment on the validity of such an aspect for making amendments to the plan.*
 - *“...as input from the Federal Advisory Committee...” lacks transparency and robust public engagement, and is subject to an ethics complaint to be address in additional comment; thus unreliable input and if ethics complaint is properly addressed by this government then at a minimum is biased input from the position of emphasis on such input to making amendments to the plan.*
 - *“...range of other interested organizations and individuals.” is not addressed or made clear of just who this is, who this represents, nor the value of such. Therefore we cannot at this time comment on the validity of such an aspect for making amendments to the plan.*
- As a matter of record and for the purpose of both filing a complaint with the Secretary and be considered official comments for purposes of standing to file objections:
 - The Northwest Forest Plan Area Advisory Committee, authorized by the Secretary under the Federal advisory committee act, in this two meetings in 2023 where the public was “robustly engaged” to **listen-only** from the high rural area of the National Forest, this citizen suffered a violation of ethics and also treaty rights guaranteed this citizen.

- The appointment of the “Public at Large” position representative blatantly attacked my culture and therefore the citizens of this country as a reason to amend this plan in a certain fashion, thereby violating the ethics of representing all the public in a fair and unbiased manner. In simple terms as one example (not limited to) using and promoting the rationale of such failures of the current plan in the use of “colonial” and “colonial violence” references to a primary cause of the plan not succeeding.
 - The same representative claimed within the meeting statements they were a member of a certain tribe, therefore I claim violation of my treaty rights and all those citizens of this country, to not remain friendly with we the citizens as granted in the treaty, and possible violation of depredation on property in an accessory to the cause by making such amendment submissions. The accessory to the depredation is using their representative position to political charge the remainder of the committee members to create discussion and positions that don’t reach a solution to current and possible depredation on property as assured by the treaty. As there are many treaties that exist in the Region 6, not all may potentially create this situation; however, in the statements made by this representative as to whom they are a member of the sovereign that such treaty does apply it is therefore asserted this violation is of that sovereign.
 - This is a claim not against an individual, but having a representative that is subject to such freedom of speech and expression along with if in fact they are a member of the sovereign institution I have treaty rights for.
- Comments that are relevant to this comment process, submitted to the same Northwest Forest Plan Area Advisory Committee in the 2023 process, but nothing heard, nothing discussed at meetings, nothing expected from what appears to be political and a special interest-agenda committee for a significant part; therefore, resubmitted in this process as a matter of standing and must be addressed:

Olympic National Forest (ONF) as addressed in the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) has been a disaster to my region of the Olympic Peninsula in the State of Washington.

Disaster in:

- how it has and has not been implemented
- vast reduction in the amount of the valuable resource in the form of timber harvest has been reduced from estimated 215mmbf to currently 20mmbf

- Affects the economy of the adjacent counties and the overdependence on an ever evolving Secure Rural Schools Act handout.
- Closing of mills due to a devastating lack of a local supply chain the ONF supported
- Fuels management failures that have created a much realized fact that ONF is no longer a buffer to wildland fire management encircling for the most part, an almost 1 million acres of Olympic National Park (ONP), 95% wilderness designation with a fire management plan that promotes fire as a naturally occurring on the landscape mechanism. The ONP fire management plan revision has been sitting on the shelf without decision since 2018, and in its draft form focused on reducing the options to wildland fire attack within the wilderness areas; this is in conflict with ONF to be able to address such, what many locals would refer to as “let it burn”, by having ONF as a buffer to safeguard the adjacent communities and we the people.
- The discriminatory action the NWFP has created by excluding any timber manage scenarios such as Matrix Forest concepts, whereas other Region 6 and NWFP forest are allowed to utilize that very practice. This discrimination cannot be defended by the actual reality the Adaptive Management Planning Units have resulted in by not utilizing the full value of the resource. It is just so evident in the implementation of the NWFP has resulted in the outside world casting its own pollution and resource abuse burden on those of us that have strived to be the best stewards of the land and its resources. This is recently represented by the effects of the US Fish and Wildlife habitat conservation planning/burden on the resources by claiming the Marbled Murrelet needs unoccupied habitat for offsetting all the development that occurs elsewhere on the limited range the species has in California, Oregon and Washington. This just goes to add evidence that the NWFP and its relationship to the Northern Spotted Owl is not working other than adding more unoccupied habitat to hands- off protection.
- The NWFP has created a tremendous loss of the valued infrastructure on ONF in regards to the road system of “Classified, Temporary, and Unclassified”, relying on a principal to abandon responsibility by claiming decommissioning such roads which tends to be for a single purpose; the investment is not supported or maintained by the very forest and its resources; road systems have a multi-use purpose.
 - The practice of the NWFP at ONF has been one of “single use” and not the enabling priority of “multi-use”. This has been expressed in such activities as Stewardship Contracting distribution/priorities and the same when it comes to infrastructure bias with the SRS Title II Resource Committees (FACA)

- Creating the stress for the local adjacent communities to introduce Wild and Scenic River designation on ONF that is in conflict with the very purpose of the currently “withdrawn lands” at ONF, withdrawn for the purpose of energy production, is just a partner in crime to establishing further unjustified wilderness designation on productive and identifiable matrix forest capable landscapes. Congress has not offered a single sustainable solution beyond just wanting to lock more resources up thus affecting the other limited state, county, and private resources adjacent to the ONF.

Aside from this initial list of issues and the need for the NWFP to be revised to address and solve each and every aspect, I am concerned with the “Balance” of the committee in how it is represented; Does county and state government get out of balance with tribal, environmental (and what I classify as single use abuse) non-governmental organizations, and even the number of JD’s on the committee? It makes it hard for this citizen to not claim the advisory act authorization of this committee calls in to question the fairness and BALANCE. My local term is “Where is the citizen-at-large” that local citizens can address our issues to? Maybe the “public at large” can fill that role, that is, if an organizational representative can serve the needs of the few versus the needs of the many.

Bottom line: revise the plan to allow ONF to manage using matrix forest, especially those matrices that have been harvested before.

Since the above were not addressed at the September meeting, the following was submitted for the December meeting. Though quite a few of the claims (Not available to the public) below were responded to me personally, they weren’t made a part of the clear process the public would have a reasonable understanding of robust public engagement. But several were not addressed, discussed, nor responded to; therefore these are being included the same as the reason given above:

- Since the meeting summary did not become a public document until early November (and then hidden in a web site archive), and no recording of the meeting was available or staff explaining the meeting specifics to the public being an option, the meeting summary is the only tool we the people have to comment therefore. And given the lateness of providing such a tool prior to the burden to get comments submitted NLT 7NOV2023 another problem this NWFP needs to be revised to address and rectified.
- The summary does not identify who the co-chairs are, but mentions a comment by one that is named. This lack of transparency is even further complicated because the ambiguity of knowing who the FAC member addressing a certain agenda aspect are not identified, either in name or their representation of the balance plan. Presenters are listed, the FAC members “discussion” points are member IDed. How were the co-chairs selected (who made that decision)?

- Who is doing what, who is the facilitator and if a contracted service how much is that costing my wallet?
- Who is the Udall Foundation and are they being paid from my wallet (my tax dollars)?
- Does the *“Participants agreed to keep committee discussions within the room, members agreed that no external committee specific discussions that could potentially undermine group decision making were allowed.”* include all sub-committee meetings that it appears the facilitator claims are not privy to public listing at a minimum, meeting summaries likely not, and no reference to open and transparency per the FACA act’s intent.
- *“Some group members mildly agreed, and many disagreed that the NWFP successfully delivered outcomes stated in its legislation and implementation.”* Who were the groups represented that “many disagreed” in the meeting summary statement?
- Why has the public not been provided:
 - • Ray Davis Presentation Slides (20230906_NWFPFACABriefing – RDavis), Thomas Timberlake Presentation Slides (20230906_Timberlake-NWFPFACAClimateChangePresentation) stated in the meeting summary.
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- This is the Region 6 plan amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan (I do wonder why Region 5 is captured in the same Federal Register notice and apparent process; might have something to do with the following issue), but it has been clear throughout this process to date that staff primary duty station being within the region are not engaged, that such staff are mostly with Region 5 or some version of being temporarily assigned to the task of taking care of Region 6’s responsibilities. This not only is a waste of tax dollars to efficiently represent my taxes, it has a serious level of concern that such subject matter experts to conduct all the in-house details with the knowledge that only exist within the region is deficient to any such amendment process. I don’t ask the Foreign Countries’ forest experts to weigh on this plan but such aspect is the same when outsourcing responsibilities and expertise with the proper knowledge of what takes place in this region.

- To this date, many of these concerns have been submitted to the Region 6 director. (Make note that assigned staff of any duty station variety is not even identified in this process address), whoever that may be on a given "interim" day, without response or remedy. (The Designated Federal Official in the FACA documentation should be held accountable)
- The fact I tried to file a grievance to my claims above of the advisory committee even to the level of ethics, nothing heard and no remedy provided other than contact some other bureaucrat in the establishment outside the region. This does not mean my treaty rights claim is not without merit, in speaking with Region 5 management the Ethics approach was the best and addressable option I agreed to, but not releasing my treaty rights.
- As a note to this within the region, one reasonable person would think a robust engagement should begin at the respective designated Forest; at least I asked that question very early on and the best I got was being kept pretty well informed of the option at the Region; but still don't know why not started at the ONF in my case.
- This plan should not just be an amendment; it should be a revision to a very failed and outdated plan.
 - The facts and details of just how the plan has failed in Olympic National Forest in regards to LSR and Adaptive Management, let alone the discriminatory of the restrictions of the use of Matrix Forest or similar for the management of the resource is evidence a revision is essential and not this political and charged special interest of throwing in other details that the enabling act for the ONF is in competition and violation of. The standing message as expressed by a Forest Supervisor: Timber harvest is a secondary benefit of the ONF, and those are kinder words chosen than what the reality is.
 - This amendment process needs to evaluate each individual designated Forest as was done and segregated in the Northwest Forest Plan when it rolled out.

Any regards due,



Ed Bowen

Citizen, taxpayer, service to country but not the King, private property owner incorporated within Federal Exclusive Jurisdiction, lost my viable and robust economy in the late seventies when the blame game on NSO caused the destruction of my corner of the world.

P.O. Box 111

Clallam Bay, WA 98326-0111

Submitted US Mail but also a placeholder comment "must be submitted" online at

<https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=64745>

Letter ID 64745-5501-3967



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Northwest Forest Plan Amendment #64745

Commenting on This Project

The Forest Service values public participation. Communications from the public regarding this project, including commenters' names and contact information, will become part of the public record. Comments, including anonymous comments, will be accepted at any time. However, comments posted after the close of a designated comment period may not be able to be given full consideration. Anonymous comments and comments submitted after the close of the final designated comment period will not provide the commenter standing for administrative review. Comments, or in some cases other expressions of interest, along with respondent's contact information, submitted during the comment period may be necessary to establish a respondent's eligibility to participate in an administrative review for this proposed action. Interested members of the public should review the proposal's information to determine the applicable administrative review process and the eligibility requirements for that process. The date of the legal notice of opportunity to comment on this proposed action is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. For proposals to be documented with an Environmental Assessment, the legal notice announcing the comment period appears in the Newspaper of Record. For Draft Environmental Impact Statements, the Notice of Availability announcing the comment period appears in the Federal Register.

Your comments are requested through 2/2/2024 11:59:59 PM (Eastern Standard Time).

Option to Submit Comment Electronically

The form below can be used to submit your comments to the responsible project official.

National Forests have the option to post comments for public viewing on this web site via a public reading room. Active reading rooms allow the public to read or download your letter, including your contact information. If this project has an active reading room, a link labeled "Public Comment Reading Room" will appear on the main project page. The agency may withhold letters containing proprietary information, sensitive cultural or habitat locations, profanity, etc. All letters, including those not posted, will be considered and included as part of the project record.

Disclaimer: All contact information is optional; however, anonymous comments will not provide standing to object.

First Name	Ed	Last Name	Bowen
<input type="checkbox"/> I officially represent an organization			
Address 1	PO Box 111	Address 2	
City	Clallam Bay	State	Washington
Province/Region		ZIP/Postal Code	98326
Country	United States	Phone Number	
Email	yellowbanks@hotmail.com		

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Letter Text

Comments, suggestions, facts and figures, complaints, failures, what is needed to include this needs to be a revision of the Northwest Plan and not some political agenda amendment; all submitted via US Mail this date.

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Click the button below to select attachments. Please note that there is a maximum of 50 files per submission and total file upload size cannot exceed 200 MBs

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Thank you for Your Comment.

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Your letter may be found in the Public Reading Room within 24 hours. The reading room can be found at the following site: [Public Reading Room](#)

Your letter ID is **64745-5501-3967**. Please save or print this page for your records.

Regards,
The Northwest Forest Plan Amendment Team

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