

Regional Foresters Jacque Buchanan and Jennifer Eberlien

Please accept this comment on the draft EIS for the proposed NWFP amendment.

I was born in 1994, the same year that the NSFP was created. Since then, I have visited many of the national forests in the PNW for recreation. More than just enjoying the forests, I have benefitted immensely from the clean water and the climate change mitigation our forests provide. After reading about the proposed changes, I am very concerned that a degraded NWFP will weaken the forests that I grew up knowing. This impact will not only impact not only my future, but also that of my future children and grandchildren. In the face of climate change, this is a time to strengthen the NWFP, not to degrade its protections.

Growing up in Roseburg, I would enjoy hunting and fishing. Now I enjoy birding and conservation. To protect ecosystems means protecting the imperiled species like the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and coho salmon

### **I urge the Forest Service to reject plans that weaken core protections**

- **Strengthen protections for mature and old-growth** forests to ensure habitat, water quality, and carbon storage, and recruit more mature and old forests to restore a functional ecosystem.
  - Do not eliminate protections for unlogged mature forests in LSRs
  - Do not increase clearcutting of mature and old-growth forests in Matrix lands (those areas originally designated to be managed for timber production), and increases logging in dry forests
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- **Maintain or expand protections for the network of forest reserves** to allow natural processes to flourish, ensure connectivity for wildlife, and support the recovery of imperiled species. Any reduction in forest reserve protections would increase harmful impacts such as habitat destruction, sediment in streams, and carbon loss, further endangering sensitive ecosystems.
- address biodiversity conservation by **recognizing that many species are unable to disperse in the current landscape** fragmented by roads and a legacy of logging.
- **DO NOT engage in the alternatives B and D**, which would also lead to significant logging in Riparian Reserves, reducing watershed quality and harming salmonids. And ALL alternatives impermissibly alter the fundamental purpose of Late Successional Reserves by allowing for management that has the purpose of creating “younger forest.”
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- Genuinely consult with Tribes, respect their sovereignty, and provide resources to support their full participation in decision-making. **The Forest Service must support co-stewardship agreements**, cultural burning practices, first food harvesting, and youth education while ensuring equitable access to planning processes. Pairing these components with the Forest Service’s plan for weakened environmental protections is a false choice manufactured by the agency.

- provide the resources and support necessary to ensure equitable access to federal decision making processes for all Tribes and diverse Indigenous perspectives, not just those with dedicated staff who already work on forest issues.
- **Address environmental justice** by analyzing impacts on air, water, and communities and ensuring fair, sustainable working conditions.
- **Shift wildfire strategies to prioritize community safety and proven prevention measures over logging.** I am unconvinced that the proposed increased logging actually helps mitigate forest fires.
  - **Focus and prioritize reducing risks and hazards within the home ignition zone using non-commercial treatments including prescribed burning fire use, not commercial logging.** All of the action alternatives include significant handouts to the timber industry under the guise of “fuels reduction” at the expense of the communities who are most vulnerable to losses from wildfires. Many “fuels reduction” projects that could occur under the proposed alternative would increase the risk of wildfire and make fires more severe when they do occur.
  - I appreciate the proposed action alternatives de-emphasis on salvage logging, but a **real moratorium on salvage logging** is needed except to remove truly hazardous trees along roads and trails.

Thank you for your consideration, I believe we need a strong forest plan that incorporates modern science and public values, robust and honest tribal consultation, and the needs of future generations.

-John Talik  
Portland, Oregon