



March 13th, 2025

Dear Regional Foresters Buchanan and Eberlien,

This comment, on behalf of the Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative (SWFC) Steering Committee, is to express support for the Community Protection Area concept contained in the NWFP Amendment DEIS proposed action, Alternative B.

The SWFC, based in Oakridge, Oregon, is entirely surrounded by National Forest lands and repeatedly threatened by severe wildfires. The SWFC mission is to promote local forest management solutions that foster ecological resiliency and socioeconomic health for the southern Willamette Forest and communities.

The SWFC Landscape Planning Collaboration Committee endorses the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment DEIS proposed action. While there are areas where there is room for improvement, Alternative B is a firm step toward advancing the goals and objectives of the Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative. SWFC supports the following:

- The prioritization of active management within Community Protection Areas (CPAs) through effective silvicultural techniques like thinning and prescribed fire.
- The development of CPAs based on fire analytic products and frameworks. POD's and PCL's, while important planning concepts, fail to do a full accounting for the true risk on the landscape according to modern fire ecology.
- The involvement of diverse participants in the development process. This collaborative, cross-boundary approach resonates with SWFC's mission to seek common ground and work across boundaries. Local involvement ensures that fire analysis data is complemented by on-the-ground expertise. This approach bridges the gap between technical analysis and place-based understanding of fire risks and forest management.
- The inclusion of provisions highlighting the need to bolster the local workforce.

The CPA concept, along with other cited provisions, enhance the collective ability to protect communities and critical resources from catastrophic wildfires. This protection is crucial for sustaining ecological resiliency and socioeconomic health for this region. The SWFC believes this approach will promote forest management solutions that benefit southeastern Lane County and other populations surrounded by National Forests in Northwest Forests.

The SWFC urges the Forest Service to give this common sense recommendation serious consideration, and include it in the preferred alternative for NWFP revision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dustin Rymph". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Dustin Rymph  
Coordinator, Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative

*Thank you, on behalf of the South Willamette Solutions Board of Directors/ SWFC Steering Committee:*

**David Chamberlain**

Professor, UO

**Sue Cathcart**

Willamette Mountain Mercantile

**Kathy Holston**

Former Oakridge Mayor

**Jason Nehmer**

Oakridge Disc Golf

**Craig Marcus**

Professor, OSU

**Susan Obermeyer**

Lane Electric Board of Directors

**Laurie Patty**

Oakridge Postal Pharmacy (Retired)

**D'Lynn Williams**

Former Westfir Mayor