

March 17, 2025

Regional Forester Jacqueline Buchanan  
Pacific Northwest Region  
U.S. Forest Service  
1220 SW 3rd Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204

Regional Forester Jennifer Eberlien  
Pacific Southwest Region  
U.S. Forest Service  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592

**Subject: Comments on the Northwest Regional Forest Plan Amendment**

Dear Regional Foresters Buchanan and Eberlien:

I'm writing to comment on the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment. I currently live in New Mexico, but I have spent a lot of time in the forests covered by this plan, and they are important to me for their beauty, wildlife, and solitude. I also return from New Mexico at least once a year and spend time in the Siuslaw and Willamette National Forests.

It is important that protections for mature and old growth forests be strengthened, not weakened, in order to protect the climate, wildlife, and clean water. Do not weaken them to increase timber production in the Pacific Northwest.

Increasing the logging of old-growth trees or trees approaching old growth risks reducing the population of native wildlife species that require old-growth habitat to survive below viability levels, which would take the amended Northwest Forest Plan out of conformity with the Forest Service's 2012 planning rule. This is particularly important in the Siuslaw National Forest, which needs to be protected as an Oregon refugia for the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet, given the inadequacy of Oregon's regulations governing logging on private and state lands and the increasing frequency of large, intense wildfires in the Willamette National Forest.

The plan should not allow logging for the benefit of young seral species in LSRs. LSRs need to be managed for the benefit of species that require habitat with older trees. Naturally occurring wildfires in LSRs can provide forest openings. Matrix areas can also provide habitat for young seral species.

Timber targets should not be arbitrary and should not be used to pressure staff, but should instead reflect what is needed to obtain optimum forest health. Timber targets based simply on

timber production will not allow the Forest Service will not be able to meet its multi-use mandate and NFMA.

The plan should require genuine consultation with Tribes and respect for tribal sovereignty while at the same time not weakening environmental protections. While adjustments will need to be made, imperiled species must be protected and carbon-storing mature and old-growth trees need to be protected.

Fire protection should not be used as an excuse for logging in the middle of nowhere. The emphasis should be on working with forests very near communities and helping communities become more fire resistant.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Fuller". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Kelly Fuller  
Santa Fe, NM  
kelly@kellyfuller.net