

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/3/2024 4:42:35 AM

First name: Willow

Last name: Kasner

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

To the US Forest Service NWFP advisory committee and beyond,

Feb 2, 2024

Hello, and thank you for listening to the public on this important moment of the NW forest plan amendment process. It is greatly appreciated, and an honor to submit my suggestions.

It is very important that the amended NWFP has FULL PROTECTION of the remaining old growth trees from any monetary harvesting, and It must have CLEAR LANGUAGE FREE FROM ANY LOOPHOLES that would allow cutting for a supposed different reason, and then sold for profit.

Also, very importantly, mature trees need to be protected from harvest as well so that they can become old growth. Of which we need to protect and grow much more of to return to historic numbers, and begin reversing this human caused long chain of events that has led to severe degradation on so many levels.

\* The way in which MOG (mature and old growth) trees not only store more carbon and clean the air for humans to breathe; but also call in moisture through their transpiration process with their varied canopies, increase ground water in the aquifers, cause the watersheds to capture and hold more water (50% more retained than in cut forests). Thus allowing the appropriate slow release of water during the dryer summer months, greatly reducing drought and wildfires, as well as subsequent flooding; keeping the vital soils alive, damp, and cool, which is crucial to the environment, and thus also to our health and survival.

\* By encouraging and maintaining nutrient rich, thriving soil like in our lush temperate rainforests, we are creating an environment for life on this planet to thrive. The PNW plays a critical role in temperature regulation and the continued water cycle and climate resilience for the whole planet. We have enough big trees still standing here, to actually be a main actor in turning this fast growing climate crisis around! As stewards of this now teetering earth; it is our duty to protect it, and bring back the vibrant life that generations of misuse, abuse, and blinding greed have systematically stripped away.

\* Wildfire management would be a lot less costly and necessary if the older forests are kept standing so that they can do Their jobs. Not to mention that wildfire spreads faster and hotter through mono culture tree plantations than in MOG forests where the forest environment is actually damp, cool and living; and these older trees themselves are more fire resistant. In tact MOG forests with healthy canopies, soil, and ground cover help naturally prevent or lessen serious erosion, drought, floods and wildfires by maintaining balanced aquifers, air, moisture and temperature levels.

\* (((An EXTRA IDEA to expand on for weed or fire hazard management; if this is not common practice already, urge you to contact some of the many wildfire training groups that learn/train while doing forest maintenance work (often thru their own organization's grants), and begin collaboration with the newly forming American Climate Core and such groups, (instead of opting for poisons or toxic herbicides and pesticides, except only in very rare and necessary occasions. )Thus offering learning opportunities and jobs to local youth, a well as assuring more vital forest knowledge and know how in the future.)))

\* I urge you to dive deep into this science, using many peer reviewed studies, to understand and protect THESE TREES, based on the scientific realities of what more they are doing to SUSTAIN THE PLANET than just carbon sequestering. Just because that has become the popular topic these days about trees, does not mean that that is

ALL they do. Without healthy standing old forests to do what they were created for, we are creating a hotter, drier, more fire friendly environment globally. Not to mention that the emissions from heavy logging is far worse than any popularly bought carbon credits can balance out.

\*FINALLY, Leave the OLD TREES ALIVE, for the sake of the lives of everything on the planet, from microbes in the soil and fungus, to us humans. All sources of fresh safe water are diminishing quickly due to the extreme loss of the forests globally. Therefore, even more importantly, here in the PNW, we have the possibility of curbing our ultimate demise; as well as the responsibility to recognize that we can greatly help to slowly restore the ecosystem's balance and protect our precious water, by fully protecting ALL of the remaining old growth, and much of the nation's mature forest stands. \*\*\*\*\*

There ALSO NEEDS TO BE LANGUAGE in the updated NWFP to include BLM forested lands along with NF land. They need to be held to the same high standard of MOG protection, and held to the same pledge of putting nature and human health and survival over revenue driven timber extraction. It is our nation's duty to see beyond the instant gratification of monetary value in harvesting these giants, and to see the great long term Economic values of leaving them alive.

\* Please RESEARCH the many articles studied and written in the PNW on the real VALUE AND ECONOMICS OF THE FORESTS, with actual evaluations of non-monetary values for our communities economy, families, biodiversity, global health, etc.

-Read the EPA's papers on the economic values of an intact watershed for example. It has been proven over and over, by various reputable sources, that the value of trees alive far exceeds any possible monetary value, in a multitude of ways.

-Economist John Talberth, PHD, Center for sustainable economy in Wa. Is a good source to research and learn from in regards to the economy of timber harvesting and forests. And so I also refer you to his work, or his recent comment submitted Jan. 29 as a quick review.

Healthy local communities and families with abundant safe drinking water, moist, nutrient rich, fire resistant naturally functioning in tact forests, healthy abundant pollinators, fish and wildlife for just a few examples. In no way, should the NWFP allow any monetary gain from cutting a mature or old growth tree. If one has to be cut for scientific or safety reasons, then it should be left to create a healthy forest floor, or put into a nearby creek to help create, restore lost or damaged habitat.

IT IS TIME NOW, to amend our previously poor forest actions, Learn and practice the ways of the tribal cultures; learn how and why to protect the old trees, so that they can protect all of us.

\*I urge you to REMOVE all LANGUAGE in the amendment that would allow old-growth trees and forests to be LOGGED other than in \*very rare\* circumstances of imminent risk to public safety. And in those rare cases, the downed trees should be left in the forest for habitat or creek restoration.

\*I request that you use this opportunity to formalize a commitment to PROTECT our MATURE TREES - which, if left to grow, will become the old growth of tomorrow.

\*I request that you also formalize a commitment and PLAN TO PROTECT our critical forested WATERSHEDS which also would promote private and municiple water source safety and efficiency; as more and more scientific evidence is coming to light about the importance of Forested watersheds.

Which, as previously mentioned, when intact, collect, hold, and therefore slowly disperse, around 50% more water than when harvested. No Trees should be cut within about 1000 feet of any stream or water source ,(since we've repeatedly seen with smaller No Harvest buffers, that the remaining trees often just end up falling over in wind, storms, or snow, due to being suddenly exposed, and with not enough protection from other trees to

survive.)

\* If one generalized plan isn't sufficient, then each zone or forested watershed should be analyzed individually as to the best ways to protect it and secure the absolute most clean safe and adequate water for the local habitat and all water users.

These expectations should then extend to private land owners as well. Nature's protection in this way should legally preempt any private owner's rights to extraction or pollution of any sort that is detrimental to the other's survival. Habitat and human basic rights should preempt also, any private land owner's rights to make a profit from extracting the very materials that protect and maintain other lifeforms, which enable our very existence.

\*If this is a reality that is out of your departments influences, then I strongly suggest that the FS begins creating plans to BUY up remaining parts of crucial WATERSHEDS.

\* \*(::For Example::: The Beavercreek watershed on the central Oregon coast, which has historically been a native weaving materials collection area, and some of their traditional fishing and hunting grounds, also contains wetlands, estuary, state natural areas, state park, threatened coho and other salmon, trout and lamprey run, as well as a huge variety of birds and fowl, including marbled murrelet and bald eagle, as well as many small homesteads and families here for many generations, and the seasonal municipal water source for 5,500 people. Sadly, the forest land between Siuslaw National Forest and the private homes, are owned and industrially clearcut by huge timber companies with no ties to the importance of protecting the watersheds (beyond current State Regs) to which they are damaging, nor to the thousands of residents whose basic human rights of clean water and safe drinking water are often put at risk.)

It appears to be a movement currently taking hold federally, and slowly reaching out to our smaller, more economically challenged communities. There are various grant and support opportunities arising for watershed land acquisition, to assure source water protection, and our basic human right of safe drinking water, among other reasons to acquire and steward ones own local watershed. If a local government or conservation group/s cannot purchase their own watershed for best stewardship, then I urge the National forest service to initiate the process to buy and protect them under their conservation and watershed protection plans.

It is far past time that our national and global priorities get put straight, and current "Profit over Life" values, practices, and laws must finally be overrun by our desperate need for survival. Water is far more valuable than Gold. Water is life. Trees create and distribute water. MOG trees do even more so, and we need their help and their protection more now than ever.

The future of our planet is greatly dependent on you right now. The next steps that the National Forests take are truly shaping the outcome of our children and grandchildren's health and vitality and possibly, their very lives.

Dear sirs, to recap, there's a deficit of old-growth trees and forests on federal lands. They should be left standing so they can store carbon, provide ecological integrity, increase biodiversity, improve watershed health, enhance wildfire resiliency, and provide more global climate resilience.

Thank you so much for reading all of our suggestions and comments, and thank you for your most important role in stewarding these precious vital forests.

We are wholly grateful for your taking action based on the understanding that we are all part of the same system, and that we need to "work with mother nature, instead of against her" as the Tribal cultures did for centuries before colonizers began taking over- blind to this main separation that would eventually create so much imbalance with nature, that it may ultimately also cause their own demise.

Thank you again for your time and energy,

Sincerely and with gratitude,

Willow Kasner,

Proud Sixth generation Oregonian on 3 sides.

-----