

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/20/2024 4:00:00 AM

First name: Randall

Last name: Koch

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have read the proposal for the USFS to manage the existing old growth in the Siuslaw National Forest and have reservations about the proposed manner and outcomes as they seem a bit detached in my reading.

To better understand the inventory I have gone out in my area on the north side of Cascade Head USFS Road 11 and 12, and 1280. Together with that I live in the Neskowin Creek valley on Slab Creek Road, and I have the Experimental Forest adjacent to the south of me and look across the valley at some large stands of old growth.

I have documented a number of stands which I document in the attached files and will continue to visit these roads and hike in on other now abandoned spurs to understand the Old Growth and Mature Growth stands that might now be considered Old Growth as well.

In the reading of the goals and the means of achieving those goals, I see too much discretion on the part of local managers to determine what is what and to what degree the stands identified are not commensurate with what is actually true out in the field.

It appears the OSFS does not know the state of many stands or is not making present understanding of where and how large the old and rapidly maturing growth stands are. That lack of access to information and the public record of that information seems at odds with the goal of preserving the stands for the genetic value, the carbon-storing value and the basic integrity of the plan as written.

Along with many other current volunteers, I am attempting to secure the locations and sizes of the stands in my immediate environs so we can help catalog the important stands of trees that create the unique conditions required for sustaining optimal living conditions for the flora and fauna integral to a healthy forest environment.

The Siuslaw is one of the highest storage opportunities critical to the balancing of our climate. It is critical to give that storage the greatest priority and leave the plantation areas for addressing USFS timber sales.

ATTACHED: 5 photos of trees in forests, 10 photos of forest visit documentation forms