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Organization:

Title:

Comments: March 13, 2025

Dear Regional Forester & Staff,

It is my belief that the original (current) NWFP has been a total failure with regard to protecting our National Forests as evidenced by the increase in acres and severity of wildfires across the PNW. Not to mention the devastating economic impact to rural communities due to reduced annual timber harvest levels.

And,

I see no improvement in this situation in any of the 3 alternatives proposed in this amendment. But Alternative D comes the closest.

I strongly recommend the USFS allow forest supervisors and district level practitioners be directed to pursue best available science with goal to create and maintain healthy, fire resilient forest ecosystems across all LUAs, moist or dry.

This management approach should include preserving groves of large trees of species best suited for the site. These groves, scattered across the landscape, in a patchiness fashion characteristic of historic range of variability. The selection of these groves should be driven not by tree or stand age alone, but rather by stand structure to provide habitat diversity across the landscape or within the restoration unit. These groves should be treated to provide for fire resiliency so that fire does not reach into the canopy.

This management strategy includes RMZs while at the same time maintaining riparian functions. These are not competing objectives in my opinion.

I propose and encourage that active forest management be carried out with long term (20yr) stewardship contracts.

This is the only way we can encourage and incentivize forest products companies to make the investments to create markets for the vast amount of biomass that needs to be removed to create and maintain healthy, fire resilient forest ecosystems providing for all the resource values --- including commodities. By this I mean

timber, minerals, grazing, non- sawlog biomass and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Further, the NWFP should encourage and provide incentives for industry entrepreneurs to develop necessary processing facilities for non-saw log biomass [ndash] think wood to energy and biochar. We need these biomass markets to be long term in order to carryout vegetation management for forest health and fire resiliency through out the National Forests.

Thank you for considering these comments,

ATTACHMENT-LETTER TEXT: NWFP PH comments PH 3-13-25.doc; This is the same content that is coded in text box; it was originally included as an attachment