

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/17/2025 4:00:00 AM

First name: rene

Last name: hersey

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello Forest Service,

I am very troubled by any proposals for increased logging and sales, doubling or tripling logging, which would, in my opinion, weaken protections for our temperate rain forest region of mature and old growth forests living in our precious public lands. Old Growth Trees are a climate solution, and we're going to need every aspect of protections as we move forward. Old-growth and mature forests are what we depend upon for climate resilience. These forests help store carbon, support biodiversity, protect ecosystems, and hold watersheds.

I say "A" no action & ask that current management continues unchanged.

I'm first people of California, we've been here for 12,000+ years and I oppose anymore clear cutting such as what I witnessed around the Mt. Hood area of OR. I've grown up with the Sequoias, the Teton and Yellowstone forests and all forests with mature and old-growth are part of the lungs of our Earth and essential to the future of all species living on Earth.

When I read that these modified forest plans could allow cutting of 1/10th of all moist matrix stands over ten years, cutting 1 billion board feet a year or 200,000 truck loads of trees, logging protections would be removed for stands between 80 to 120 years....that is very young to be cutting down trees and does nothing to help the species dependent upon old growth forests and these new rules would prevent these forests from ever aging into protection, curtailing recruitment of old growth. I have concerns about your proposed amendment for dry forests~allowing for logging at least one third of dry forests stands across all land allocations when these trees are suitable habitat for some species? And in Alternative D-that plan would no longer survey rare species in certain areas, it is an overly aggressive plan and is not what the majority of citizens of California wantmy heart stops.

To say that you can cut trees using the term "ecological forestry", that's a vague term and it lacks an ecological justification to log old growth forests.

The current NWFP has had many successes in the last 30 years, using the LSR, Riparian Reserves "Matrix", Adaptive Management Areas, Survey and Manage, Aquatic Conservation Strategy and Key Watersheds.

It slowed habitat loss, forests are regrowing faster than they are being lost, road impacts are being addressed although there have been mis-steps in repairing fences and road closures in some areas. Watershed indicators are improving and thinning vs clear cutting young stands has been a win and public forests switched from source of carbon pollution to sink! It's working, and despite the government red tape, it is essential we don't lose any more ground.

Working with tribes and incorporating the ancient techniques used by west coast indigenous peoples for thousands of years would be a better investment of your time vs clear cutting and destroying this vital living ecosystem which we all depend upon.

The NW Forest plan is still logging in the matrix as it is, since some of those trees were not protected in the plan 30 years ago.

Salvage logging is destructive to the floor of the forest, and it deprives the burned stand area from regenerating and many species use these areas after a disturbance including Spotted Owls. These disturbances provide and replenish nutrients, provide seeds to help forests regenerate naturally. You would not include the salvaged logging in the total amount of proposed board feet. That's not OK, that's like Montana not including Grizzly mortalities outside of the recovery "zone" or mortalities by Montana FWP for an acknowledged endangered species.

Species protection would be lessened and that is alarming! The Spotted Owls needs every bit of habitat that currently exists! To clear cut would diminish their habitat, and make their survival even worse!

The mature and old growth forests have evolved with fire, they act to sequester carbon, and are prime wildlife habitat which is top of mind for me.

If management practices are changed allowing clear cutting which requires roads be created across the lands it is one of the greatest enemies for Wolves and Grizzlies both endangered species and other endangered and indigenous wildlife..Human access into Wolf & Grizzly habitat is facilitated by roads, both open and closed, that are legacies of resource extraction. High densities of roads lead to increased encounters between Wolves and Grizzlies and high lethality. There would be far too many unsecured roads if any of the revised plans were to move forward. I don't know how close the revised boundaries are to the northern Cascades, but, we are in the process of revising the Grizzly Bear DPS, formal comments are due May 16th, 2025 and IF this revised NWFP were to move ahead, I fear for Wolves and Grizzlies if one or both are delisted, that is when trapping & snares along these roads would begin to appear if the Trump administration has anything to do with it.

People talk about the reintroduction of Wolves to YNP and Idaho and "what a success it has been" but, the more we fragment forests with management practices of clearcutting and road building sanctioned by the U.S. Forest Service, and other human-driven encroachments, and de-listing in future, if aggressive trapping, hunting seasons and an aggressive President in D.C. continues to declare emergency orders and other invasive practices, it would not take long to exterminate Wolves & Grizzlies again.

It appears that B, C, D options weaken the protections currently in place. Logging is not the answer to our current climate problems. And the idea of cutting 1 billion board feet a year or 200,000 truck loads of trees.....this will create a multitude of more damage when the forests are one of our best solutions to the climate crisis, if protected. Such a small percentage is permanently protected and in light of how aggressive the Trump Administration is in wanting to cut down forests and mine, drill and appropriate our forests to log and sell for money, we have a real crisis in the making if Alternative B, C, or D are enacted.

Additionally, the Trump administration has launched an attack on our American public lands, wanting to gut environmental protections, fast-track logging, and underpin the laws which safeguard our forest, wildlife, water and communities. See my two attachments.

Please don't create a disaster and DO keep the Northwest Forest Plan unchanged.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns and please do the right thing for all of us and do not hand over our irreplaceable mature and old growth forests to the timber industry.

Thanks again.

ATTACHMENT-Reference: 'Emergency' energy order could threaten Wyo wetlands.pdf; River Stingray; 2025; 'Emergency' energy order could threaten Wyo wetlands; 2025 Buckrail - Jackson Hole, news; Article discussing the potential wetland impacts from implementation of Trumps energy executive order.

ATTACHMENT-Reference: Trump admin reportedly rescinds national monuments in California The Wilderness Society.pdf; 2025; Press Release Trump admin reportedly rescinds national monuments in California; The Wilderness Society; Article stating that language on the Whitehouse web site indicated that protection for some national monuments was being repealed, but that that language is no longer up on the website and there's concern over what protections these monuments have.