

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/17/2024 9:28:03 PM

First name: Frances

Last name: Dunham

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Pacific Northwest Region must lead our National Forests in every element of climate change mitigation, habitat conservation, water quality protection, and wildfire prevention.

When old growth forests are maintained and restored, real and effective carbon sequestration and storage help shield our climate from catastrophic changes. Obviously, the protection of old growth forests is an urgent priority that must be prominent in the Northwest Forest Plan and any amendment to it in the future.

Promoting biodiversity through preservation and interconnected habit is likewise invaluable in the benefits to neighboring communities through water quality improvement, air pollution mitigation, outdoor recreation, wildfire suppression and numerous other economic benefits. To the entire national population, mature forests are a refuge for psychological and personal renewal as well.

At no time should logging be justified as "fuel reduction", as has so often occurred in the recent past. Logging and road building must be minimized to prioritize old growth forests. Tribal interests, especially the responsibilities to future generations, must be reflected in the Northwest Forest Plan and any amendment to it in the future.

Please make these elements the center of Plan amendments.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment for the record.