

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/19/2024 9:11:43 PM

First name: Jonathan

Last name: Berthet

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, my name is Jon berthet and I live in Damascus, OR and I want to share my thoughts about the Northwest Forest Plan amendment.

Climate change is the greatest threat to our survival and protecting mature trees, forests and old growth is the best strategy to draw carbon out of the atmosphere and store it. I've already spent over \$30k retrofitting my house and maintaining 2.5 acres of trees so they're more resilient to climate change.

I depend on the forests not just for health and recreation, but it is a place my friends from out of state come to for its beauty and forests.

Moving ahead with preservation can add jobs in recreation, preservation work such as road-removal and tree planting, and monitoring.

The Pacific Northwest forests can take up and store more carbon than any forest in the world. That is why you must include President Biden's goals of 30 percent protection of mature and old growth forests by 2030 in the guiding principles of the amendment. The U.S. is a signatory to the IPCC which calls for forest protection as a major factor in reducing climate change.

Oregon has only 10% of patchy old growth and some of it is pinyon/juniper which is less helpful for carbon stores. Hence protection of mature forests and trees in the NWFP bioregion is essential to build up old growth and mature reserves to 50% stock by 2050.

Since BLM forests have been removed from the Forest Plan's regional reserve system any amendment to the plan should have clear and enforceable limits on logging and road impacts. The amendment must have clearly protected, connected, and redundant reserves by including all mature and old-growth forests and core wildlife areas without roads (1000 acres or larger).

- \* All old growth must be off limits for logging even post-fire.
- \* Select areas of mature forest, preferably the vast majority, that are more resilient (less susceptible to insect infestation and drought and with better water resources) and make logging off limits immediately by providing them with GAP 1 protections.
- \* Place a moratorium on mature tree logging.
- \* Our western, wetter forests do not need thinning to prevent wildfire. Understory and small trees grow too fast to be an effective strategy for less common east wind events that caused the westside 2020 wildfires. Instead, we need to focus on fire hardening our homes and communities near forestlands.
- \* Set up sidebars for any fire prevention strategies that includes protecting the larger trees by rule and protecting riparian areas on the eastside or southern forests.

Intact forests also enable cleaner drinking water and are less impacted by drought and more fire-resistant. As part of forest conservation, the new forest plan should work to maintain the following:

- \* Prioritize drinking watersheds for the strongest protection to advance mature forests to become old growth.
- \* Increase riparian protection standards and require 70% canopy cover in all forested areas that contribute to salmon habitat both upriver and down to protect temperatures that are still dangerously high.
- \* Preserving biodiversity and connected wildlife habitat across the region should be a core principle of any forest plan revision. Please include not only threatened species, but also those pending for listing under the

Endangered Species Act.

As a citizen of Damascus in Oregon, my life is always fraught with more and more extreme weather events and preserving these carbon sink forests is the simplest way to help reach our climate goals for not just our state but for my kids as well.

Thank you,  
Jon Berthet  
damascus, OR