

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/19/2024 11:12:18 PM

First name: Mary

Last name: Moore

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Since the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) was established in 1994, it has had important successes, including slowing the decline of several endangered species, protecting large swaths of old-growth forests, and improving watershed conditions. However, changing temperature and precipitation patterns are creating new climate-driven threats to the forests of the Pacific Northwest, as well as magnifying impacts from insects, disease, and historically large and severe wildfires. These new threats, along with increased scientific understanding and information, point to the need for targeted updates to the NFP to maintain healthy, resilient forests.

Specifically, the NFP amendment should focus on:

Defining goals for sustaining ecological integrity of these national forests, as well as strategies for their achievement that are informed by an understanding of the ongoing and anticipated effects of climate change.

Improving landscape resilience to wildfire by restoring forest health where it is impaired and returning ecosystem-appropriate fire to the landscape.

Conserving existing old-growth forests and recruiting future generations of old-growth forests.

Incorporating Indigenous knowledge to help inform the agency's management goals and strategies to further the agency's general trust responsibilities.

Supporting the sustainability of communities located near these national forests by providing an array of sustainable recreational opportunities and forest products.

Thank you for undertaking this critical update to the Northwest Forest Plan in a targeted and science-based manner.