Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/21/2024 1:01:34 AM

First name: Timothy
Last name: Leadingham

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Public Servants: I am a forest management professional and member of Society of American Foresters. This proposed amendment to the NW Forest Plan is sorely needed. The forest plans now recognize only spotted owl habitat as an important value of our PNW forests. If you are going to conserve old growth and spotted owl habitat, you must treat surrounding and adjoining areas for fuel build-up and structure. Witness the devastating fires in the Sequoia region where old growth was destroyed because there had not been adequate fuel management surrounding the groves. You must have fuel treatment first in order to restore natural fire. You also must cooperate with surrounding and adjoining state, private, and tribal forest owners to control fire regionally and protect communities. The Paradise fire is an example where regional cooperation could have saved lives and property. Expansion of the Good Neighbor Authority is essential, as is tribal consultation and collaboration. I worked 30 years at a large forested reservation in Washington. It took most of those 30 years to reduce the forest health issues and fuel build-up of decades of fire exclusion and un-even aged silviculture. Tribes have an abundance of knowledge and experience which is invaluable to us in this effort to keep our National Forests as carbon sinks instead of emission sources, while providing all the multiple benefits of active forest management. You should have committees for every forest with members from local tribes, state and county officials and staff, private land management professionals, to advise you on needed practices for the National Forests in that region. Thank you and peace with the Earth.