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Comments: In considering a proposed amendment to the Forest Service's Northwest Forest Plan, the Service should be forward looking while being aware of what has not been accomplished under the Plan to make the federal forests here in the Pacific Northwest healthy... healthy for wildlife, the environment, jobs for our communities, and the trees themselves.

The trees covered by the Northwest Forest Plan are in a critical state. The amendment should address active management across the lands. The stands are very overstocked, causing slow growth, spread of disease and bug infestation, devastating wildfires, and lack of adequate habitat for native birds and mammals.

The current plan has failed miserably on the goals contained in the plan. It has failed to provide an adequate supply of raw timber to support our local timber economies with jobs and funds for public services. It has failed on the wildfire front--lack of management has allowed wildfires that have polluted the air, killed trees, plants, birds, mammals, and humans on the frontline of fires. It has failed to provide adequate ability to remove dead, dying, and burnt trees from the landscape.

Healthy forests across the landscape should include forests of all age classes, especially younger trees that sequester carbon at the highest rates. Healthy forests should include management for thinning and active management in all forests, including Late Successional Reserves and Matrix lands. Healthy, well-managed forests can provide all we ask them to do: economic viability for rural timber communities and a healthy environment for wildlife.

An amendment that will give more ability for active management will help with both timber supply and conservation goals.

Connie Beauvais, District 3 Port Commissioner

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