

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 4:38:16 PM

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Comments: I support and agree with the Mazama Conservation Committee comments below.

The Mazama Conservation Committee has been following the effort to update the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) and agrees with Cascade Forest Conservancy that the plan has some promising proposed revisions, but parts are vague and incomplete, with the following recommendations:

Update the NWFP with a climate change focus. An amendment to the NWFP focused on climate resilience would be a good way to incorporate policy changes needed to ensure our forests in the northwest are resilient to climate change.

Protection for mature trees and old growth forests. Although the NWFP protects some older forests, it does not protect all older forests. Given the increased pace of wildfires and other disturbances it's imperative we protect all older forests, especially those on the cusp of becoming old growth. In addition, Mazamas supports a moratorium on logging mature trees and old growth forests.

Carbon Mitigation and Carbon Reserves. Carbon mitigation should be a primary objective of the NWFP and at least some areas on each national forest. We'd like the agency to consider creating carbon reserves that are primarily managed for carbon mitigation and storage.

Base forest fire mitigation on solid, current science. Each forest ecosystem has its own history of growth and disturbance (both natural and human-caused); and differences which should be taken into account before applying broad-based fire risk mitigations. For example, data shows that thinning of wet forests does not prevent major fires emerging under extreme drought and heat, possibly fanned by wind events. Even in some drier forests (like those on the east side of the Cascades and some in California) thinning may reduce canopy, exacerbating drought. More effort should be directed at reducing human-caused fire ignitions (implicated in over 80 percent of forest fires) and hardening human communities, creating defensible spaces around them.

Support for tribal inclusion & co-stewardship. We support a greater focus on incorporating tribal knowledge and creating co-stewardship opportunities in the updated Northwest Forest Plan.