

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 5:05:26 PM

First name: Jean

Last name: Naples

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I am writing as an endangered wildlife species and old growth forests protection advocate because old-growth forests provide trees big enough to contain the large nest cavities pileated woodpeckers need for nesting and an abundance of insects for the birds to feed on. However, I am now very concerned because as the climate changes, old forests that woodpeckers and other wildlife depend on are increasingly threatened with destruction.

I strongly support all measures to conserve existing old-growth forests and recruiting future generations of old-growth forests. Please remember that the incorporation of Indigenous knowledge to help inform the agency's management goals and strategies to further the agency's general trust responsibilities will support the sustainability of communities located near these national forests by providing an array of sustainable recreational opportunities and forest products.

Equally important is the ability to adapt to disturbance and changing conditions on the ground. The land management agencies should adopt standards to create forest conditions across the landscape that provide for wildlife habitat and migration as the climate changes and species are increasingly threatened by associated weather events.

Finally, adoption of an old forest network, as the Notice of Intent proposes, that identifies younger forests to become part of the old forest age class would significantly contribute to adaptation and resilience. These forests supply clean water, habitat, and absorb carbon as well, and contribute to a dynamic and vibrant forest system.

At this time, I thank you for your consideration of my letter and for the opportunity to comment on this important Notice of Intent. Managing our federal forests for their many uses and resources is not easy, but adopting policies focused on protecting old forests and adaptation and resilience is essential if these forests are to persist into the future. I appreciate and thank you for undertaking this timely, targeted and science-based update in the Pacific Northwest Forest Plan.

Sincerely,

Jean Marie Naples, MD-Ph.D.