

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/1/2024 5:36:44 PM

First name: Catherine

Last name: Feher

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The mission of the NWFP should also include preserving mature forests for human survival and enjoyment. At the rate these forests are disappearing, our great grandchildren will have to go to National Parks to experience the richness of our mature forests ecosystems.

Strongly supporting mature forests will decrease the risk of severe floods and mudslides since they absorb water. They also act as a filter and help replenish groundwater. When properly managed, they resist fire much better than close plantings of fir monoculture.

Tribal involvement is essential due to the knowledge they have accumulated over centuries, as well as the impact these forests have on their traditional way of life.

Goals for timber production are not realistic in light of the severe pressure on our Pacific Northwest forests. Short term financial gain can give disastrous results in the long term. One needs only to look at what is happening in the Amazon basin.

We need to have the courage to act to protect our descendant's heritage, which is not ours to rob blindly. My hope would be that this plan also encourages large private timber interests to pause their indiscriminate harvest of mature forests.