

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/2/2024 10:41:42 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service, NWFP Federal Advisory Committee members, and other affiliates,

I am writing to you as an Oregon resident and a graduate from the University of Oregon. I currently work for FireGeneration Collaborative, an organization of diverse youth from around the country fighting to imagine and bring to life a better relationship with fire on the land. We all agree that we are at an untenable situation in regards to extreme wildfires and climate change; that's the very reason that this amendment to the NWFP is being called for. I agree with the broad suggestions to increase wildfire resilience among old growth forests and forests within the NWFP broadly, to increase engagement with tribes, to increase climate resilience, to increase community well being for those communities intertwined with these forests, and to protect old growth and mature forests. What follows are some of my specific ideas for how these goals might be achieved in the amendment.

Within your goals for increased fire resilience, clarification of direction around the re-incorporation of fire into NWFP forest ecosystems, and further direction for prescribed burning etc, I suggest the following:

- Lowering NWCG requirements where possible or pursuing alternatives to make cultural burning more accessible to Indigenous fire practitioners who may be well versed in years of experience of using fire on the land, but do not have the specific, difficult to obtain government certifications needed to practice their cultural burning that they have done since time immemorial.
- Equally incentivize prescribed fire and fire suppression within your workforce and policies as it is currently easier/more profitable in many ways to practice suppression rather than prescribed fire.
- Make available more federal funding for cultural burning
- Expand ability to let accidentally started fires burn that are doing good work on the landscape
- Educate the public on the benefits of prescribed fire
- Understand cultural fire as a sacred, land based, action that regenerates a people, and not simply fuels reduction
- Give vastly more free and unrestricted access to Indigenous people to burn on federal lands, as well as forage and harvest fire dependent first foods

In regards to protecting ecosystems from climate change and helping to mitigate the threats of climate change:

- Respond to Biden's executive orders that have in part prompted these revisions on the part of the Forest Service and make it clear that if he is truly interested in ameliorating climate change effects in our forests he will not approve further natural gas and oil projects and pipelines, such as the Willow Project
- Incorporate reduction of fossil fuels into USFS land management strategies throughout NWFP area
- Protect old growth trees as carbon sinks
- Put into official USFS NWFP policy a recognition of the link between climate change and colonialism and our resulting responsibility to act against both harmful forces

In regards to old growth protection:

- Put forth special effort to protect mature stands that will become old growth in addition to old growth stands

In regards to incorporating Indigenous input:

- Make it official policy that Indigenous representatives be compensated by the Forest Service for the time that they spend collaborating with the USFS on these solutions, so that they aren't wasting unpaid personnel hours
- Incorporate real co-stewardship of NWFP lands, don't simply give lip service to tribes
- Make the tribal consultation process for everything as long as possible, that is one way that the majority of stakeholders involved agree would be a massive step towards incorporating Indigenous input. With over 80 tribes involved, as written in the NOI, real and meaningful consultation and collaboration is a lengthy lengthy process,

and should be treated as such.

- Develop long term, trusting, localized relationships with Indigenous stakeholders, and minimize staff turnover in these areas so that long term reciprocal relationships can be established.
- Mandate staff training on settler colonialism and the role of the US government in ongoing attempted genocide against Indigenous peoples in the U.S. so that they can understand how important their actions are and how much potential to help or hurt they have

In regards to community engagement and benefit:

- Strengthen workforce conditions for young fire stewards who are looking to provide labor source to the USFS if only provided with good working conditions, such as healthcare and hazard pay
- Lower barriers for educational access to fire, to help grow our wildfire management workforce
- Increase access to land based education that includes education on colonialism and Indigenous history, as well as how to use fire and be wildfire safe.