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Organization:

Title:

Comments: TO: PNW Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service, Portland?VIA:

<https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public//CommentInput?Project=64745> DATE:

February 2, 2024?

RE: Northwest Forest Plan Amendment - scoping comments

Dear Forest Service:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide scoping comments on the NWFP Amendment.

First, I have read and endorse the detailed comments in the letter signed by 20 organizations, including 350PDX, Oregon Wild, and Tualatin Riverkeepers.

I would like to add comments from my personal experience. I live on 109 acres of forest land in Corbett, Oregon, in the Gordon Creek watershed. The watershed is a patchwork of industrial timberland, BLM forest land, USFS forest land, and other small forest owner properties. USFS land is at the top of the watershed, and has the remaining bigger and older trees in the watershed save a BLM stand on my eastern border. Federal forest is a couple hundred yards from my back door, and much of the rest of my border is industrial timberlands.

When I moved here 21 years ago, I was surrounded by mature forest. All but BLM land has been clearcut since then. BLM land has preserved the healthy riparian habitat and amphibian populations around the small streams. On industrial timberland the small and medium streams have lost their shade, "active management" removed standing trees down to the no cut line-and most of the few remaining isolated trees blew down. The teaming neotenic larvae of Pacific giant salamander and Northwestern salamander are gone, with only a few of the previously prolific egg masses of the latter seen now. I doubt many people have the opportunity I do to watch the changes day to day, season to season, year after year, to see how devastating what sounds good on paper can be for riparian areas. Please do not follow in industrial footsteps. I urge you to continue the NWFP riparian protections.

There is 140 year old forest on BLM land on the north part of my eastern border. There used to be a Northern Spotted Owl who would spend one or two weeks on my property a few times a year. Now I have a Barred owl who is much more frequently present, and no Spotted Owl for several years. I assumed the Spotted owl was there because of the old forest, and left when the surrounding mature forest was logged.

I have been in charge of the reforestation on a 40 acre property above Multnomah Falls, surrounded by USFS lands. The property is in the total burn area of the Eagle Creek fire. That fire was due to drought, heat, human stupidity, and driven by the East wind. No amount of thinning would have prevented this fire or the destruction to Nesika lodge.

Climate change related heat and drought are taking visible toll on my forest and forests throughout Oregon, especially Western red cedar and Western hemlock here, and Douglas fir elsewhere. So I urge you to amend the NW Forest Plan with climate change in mind first and foremost. Please protect all mature and old growth trees from logging and in general eliminate our public forests as sources of commercial harvest. Please focus on keeping riparian areas protected and healthy. Again, I concur with the more specific commentary in the letter sent by the previously cited 20 member group of organizations.

I have worked with your hydrologists on stream temperature monitoring and with your foresters on reforestation strategies. I have great respect for your on the ground work force. I will trust in you to continue and improve the

many positive aspects of the current NW Forest Plan and help us optimize the ability of our public forests to mitigate climate change, supply clean, cold water, and provide biodiverse habitat for threatened, endangered, and plain ordinary wildlife.

With respect,  
Candace Bonner