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First name: Ric

Last name: Bailey

Organization:

Title:

Comments: [External Email]Comments on Revisions to the Northwest Forest Plan

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Comments on Northwest Forest Plan

January 8, 2024

As you know, the Northwest Forest Plan was designed to protect formerly common species of wildlife, fish, and plants that are now endangered due to the voracious logging of the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's.

The most urgent need for change in the Plan is for elimination of the loopholes in Late Successional Reserves that allow logging. There is no good reason to log in Late Successional Reserves.

Logging presented as fire risk reduction is an unproven action that we know will decrease ancient forest habitat and reduce carbon storage. Any actions proposed to reduce wildfire risk on federal land via logging must be considered an experiment. We should not be experimenting with the last vestiges of ancient forest that remain.

At present, tens of thousands of acres of Late Successional Reserves are proposed for logging in the Midnight Project, planned for the Twisp River Drainage on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest under the guise of restoring forest conditions. Such conditions are not static, nor are they documented, and the reality of climate change has already changed forest conditions, and will continue to change them into the future.

The greatest use of our public forests is for habitat protection, carbon storage, and as refugia for people as well as wildlife. Please strengthen the Northwest Forest Plan's protection provisions and eliminate those that will allow logging for any reason, or will allow changes in the land area protected under the Plan.

Sincerely,

Richard Bailey

icilybear@gmail.com

P.O. Box 1086

Winthrop, WA. 98862