

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/2/2024 1:09:40 AM

First name: Carolee

Last name: Colter

Organization:

Title:

Comments: [External Email]Please update the NW Forest Plan to protect our mature and old-growth forests.

You don't often get email from carolee.colter.179407219@grsdelivery.com. Learn why this is important

<<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>>

[External Email]

If this message comes from an unexpected sender or references a vague/unexpected topic;

Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.

Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: Spam.Abuse@usda.gov

Dear Ms. Buchanan,

I'm writing to provide scoping comments on the Forest Service's notice of intent to prepare an EIS for an amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan.

The Northwest Forest Plan is an unprecedented, science-based, regional ecosystem management plan. Since its establishment in 1994, it has improved watershed conditions and reduced threats to mature and old-growth forests.

However, impacts from climate change are increasing in intensity and frequency, requiring updating of the NFP. Specifically:

- 1) Protect mature and old-growth stands in moist forests.
- 2) Protect mature and old-growth trees in seasonally dry forests.
- 3) Establish clear standards and guidelines for reducing road density to 1-2 miles/m² and hydrologically decoupling the road network from aquatic ecosystems.
- 4) In the uplands, restore landscape spatial patterns of vegetation that increase resilience to disturbance.
- 5) Establish habitat connectivity standards and guidelines for wildlife moving to adapt to changing climate.
- 6) Incentivize prescribed and managed burns and, more broadly, incorporate Indigenous cultural burning practices.
- 7) Partner with Tribes to develop management goals and strategies related to co-management and co-stewardship informed by indigenous knowledge, access to cultural and religious sites, cultural burning, indigenous hunting and gathering on national forests, and other issues of interest to Tribes.
- 8) Support local communities through the creation of a restoration workforce, providing economic opportunities for smaller, local firms, processing of restoration by-products, supporting sustainable recreation opportunities, and other measures.
- 9) Maintain and improve protections for at-risk fish and wildlife and ensure that plan components sustain the ecological integrity of national forests.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the Forest Service's proposed climate-smart amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan.

Regards,

Carolee Colter

5252 16th Ave NE

Seattle, WA 98105

<<http://admin.phone2action.com/email/open/leg/728173/179732929>>