

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/22/2024 6:40:12 AM

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Title:

Comments: [External Email]Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

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Dear Forest Service:

Thank you for reading my reading my letter of support for important additions to the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan (NFP).

1.. The continued protection of old growth trees in designated areas should add some other forests not originally mentioned in 1994.

The forests of the NFP region are valued by the indigenous people and the country at large despite push back from some stakeholders who use the public land for personal financial reasons. The public desires of the larger numbers of citizens must supercede the interests of a powerful few with political clout and monetary means to buy influence. Please be on guard against these power plays to avoid certain regulations against noise, and the use of the land to exclude horses, so cattle can be rased on public land.

2. Forest fires are usually out of control when started by human negligence or malice. In modernizing the NFP, the crucial significance of protecting forests to maintain human life as well as plant and animal life must be central to any amendment.

3.To this end, regulations against loud and disrespectful use of mechanized vehicles destroying habitats for wildlife should include and support another area outside the forest where these types of entertainment can still be enjoyed without diminishing the resilience of precious ecosystems barely surviving in our public lands, water and forests.

4. The conservation strategies that can be implemented for both moist lands, and those which are seasonally dry can become an educational opportunity for students in this country to learn the value of certain plants, and the ways to work with nature, not against it as can still be taught by the elders who remember the traditional wisdom that kept them alive under difficult circumstances. Set aside funding to employ these wisdom keepers , not those natives who have become so of these acculturated to European values of making money, they no longer are good teachers. Employ the medicine elders of regional tribes to teach skills, knowledge of the uses of plants for healing, for survival, with respect and knowledge of preservation of the land, the plants and the animals who keep the ecosystem in balance that we rely on as humans.

5. Continue to recover the habitats of endangered wildlife, and to use research that promotes survival using natural means when forests or rivers are dying from pollution, insects, drought, disease or other unexpected threats.

6 Our region's socioeconomic status since 1994 brings challenges related to the increase in population, the decrease in awareness by many who do not know or understand the deep significance of random or planned destruction of the forestlands which has ripple effects on water quality, air quality, and even food quality as our fruit orchards suffer. (

This is an aside. A shortage of farm workeres to harvest and political pressures from the GOP result in problems for the farms in the region,. We have lost the knowledge of how to increase the health and yeild of fruit trees or how to put safeguards up to help Healers identify and responsibly harvest the medicinal plants in our fields and forests so as not to eliminate them entirely. And, now oil based pollutants are carried into the nearby groundwater as well. We need to think outside the box.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments related to concerns for the Northwest Forest Planning.

Sincerely,
Dr Deanna Ross

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