

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/28/2024 12:14:21 AM

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Organization:

Title:

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

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Dear Forest Service:

Thank you for accepting this scoping comment in support of the Forest Service's proposed amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP). The forests are vital and essential, for all animals/ and people, and all the animals that call them home, and they are part of our Sacred Mother Earth and must be protected. Mother Earth takes care of us and we take care of her, and we the good people will always take care of and protect Sacred Mother Earth/The Planet And Universe.

In the NFP, it is crucial that we ensure that these ecosystem services continue to flow from our national forests and that they are able to adapt to a changing climate. Here are key considerations for the changes to the NFP:

First, the amendment must protect and conserve mature and old growth trees and forests in both moist and seasonally dry forests, protect ALL of the forests. While the NFP reserved many older forests in 1994, it did not protect them all, which has led to controversy among stakeholders. Thus, the NFP amendment must sustain and replenish older trees and ALL the forests into the future.

Second, the amendment must recognize and address the effects of climate change, particularly the increase in very large and severe wildfires. The amendment should reassess the protection strategies for both moist and seasonally dry forests, ALL the forests. And learning and incorporating Indigenous cultural burning practices, and traditional knowledge. And consultating and consulting with regional Tribes is crucial.

Third, conservation of the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and native salmonids was a cornerstone of the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan, and an amendment should only maintain and enhance protections for at-risk animal species and ALL the animals and forests. The NFP amendment should bolster efforts to recover wildlife, recognizing the ongoing threat of climate change. To protect biodiversity in the era of climate change, the amendment must ensure ecosystem resilience from disturbances such as wildfire, drought, and disease.

Building a good forest restoration workforce will contribute to ecological resilience of our National Forests and ensure continued protection for these forests, animals, and our Sacred Mother Earth.

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

Sincerely,

Joseph Wise

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