

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/31/2024 4:00:00 AM

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Comments: I live and practice forestry as a small forest landowner in Western Washington. I am concerned that there appears to be a lack of understanding regarding how forests west of the Cascades operate. Please do not use a one-size-fits-all approach.

Specifically, the amendment focuses on proactive stewardship (thinning, prescribed fire, and other treatments) in all old-growth types. A focus on active management for all old-growth is problematic. While proactive management to reduce wildfire risk may be appropriate in some forest types it is certainly not needed or beneficial in all. In wet forests west of the Cascade crest, these proposed management strategies could do more harm than good.

Also, the current plan does not consider an alternative that would require conservation of mature forests, or a portion of mature forests. I believe the Final Environmental Impact Statement should include an alternative that looks at conserving at least some portion of existing mature forests.

Also, the standards as currently written in the preferred alternative Standard 2c. allow for too many inappropriate exceptions that could lead to meaningful loss of old-growth forests. While exceptions for tribal use are appropriate, all of the others should be removed from the plan.