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Comments: The Northwest Forest Plan has been a failure and non-action is threatening the forest and species it was supposed to protect.

30 years of minimal forest management has left our forest overcrowded and unhealthy.

Without harvesting to pay for maintaining forest infrastructure, roads, culverts, and bridges lack the needed resources to prevent water pollution, wildfire prevention, and public enjoyment.

The Spotted Owls and other endangered species have not recovered.

In our local area, no timber harvest has occurred since 1994. Local contractors and businesses have been lost. The timber infrastructure has dwindled to a serious level.

Local school districts have struggled to make their budgets and cuts have been made.

Federal forests are doing little to help address climate change. In fact, dead trees and wildfires have added carbon dioxide to the air, and wildfire smoke is impacting people's health.

The Northwest Forest Plan needs serious changes and this amendment does not address a path forward. Here are some issues that need consideration:

Our Federal forests need active forest management and economic harvests before they die and burn and lose the carbon they have stored for decades back into the atmosphere. The health of our federal forests needs to be restored.

Reliable active management will bring back jobs and revenues for local schools and the economy.

The bureaucratic red tape needs to be cut so Federal employees can lay out timber sales quickly, efficiently, and economically.

Maybe Spotted Owls are not able to adapt quickly enough to a changing climate to survive. Preserving more forests and killing Barred Owls, which are more adaptable, is a losing plan that will continue to fail. Without changing course, wildfires will be the end of our Spotted Owls and forests.

The Northwest Forest Plan tried to protect the few species that prefer older forests. All of the many species that require new disturbances, and younger forests have decreased from Federal lands. Active forest management can help all forest species.

Active forest management is needed to save our forests, help rural economies, and make public lands available to more people again.

Thank you for considering my concerns when amending the Northwest Forest Plan.

Thank You

Tom Westergreen, CF