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Comments: I have tracked and participated in these issues as a citizen and research scientist in the Pacific Northwest since the early 1970s and took part in the Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team project (1993) leading to the NW Forest Plan (1994). At that time we were not to consider climate change and the barred owl. Here we are only 30 years later and they are now recognized as "elephants in the room" profoundly affecting all the relevant forest landscapes through the agencies of fire and species displacement.

And here we are today with the current, most profound, most active forest management being the "indirect" fire management system - it's the elephant in the forest management world of today, especially relevant to the NWFP area, where so much old growth is located. And climate change (warming and drying summers) are inexorably driving the changing fire regimes, giving the indirect fire management system ever greater influence on the landscape. Yet, the members of the FAC Committee to make recommendations about revisions to the NWFP were told to not consider it.

This is a key missing factor in the planning process.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

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