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Comments: I urge you to retain current NWFP management policies. All proposed alternatives to the NWFP call for increased logging and decreased protections for T&E plant and animal species. By changing the definition of what constitutes "young" and "mature" stands, more older and larger trees will be harvested, thus removing that cohort of trees that will eventually grow into old-growth stands. These stands are all important to establishing and maintaining a healthy forest where a range of stand ages is represented and habitats exist for resident wildlife. These healthy forests shouldn't be fragmented; there should be connectivity to provide movement from stand to stand. Exceptions to policies should be minimized to avoid excessive logging. Matrix lands would be much more subject to logging, especially clearcutting, under the alternatives to the existing NWFP. This will result in habitat fragmentation, decreased water quality, increased runoff and sedimentation in forest streams. Loggers will always want more land opened up to logging; they want it all, without oversight. It's our job to log selectively while being aware of environmental constraints with an eye towards future forests. Selective cuts and prescribed burns to maintain and enhance a stand are reasonable, but they can't be used as excuses or as cover for excessive logging.