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First name: David

Last name: Pilz

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for allowing me to comment on proposed revisions to the Northwest Forest Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Although now retired, I am interested because my entire career was in forestry in the Pacific Northwest. That included three seasons as a fire fighter; three in reforestation; advocacy for the Middle Santiam Wilderness area; a Master's degree in Forest Mycology; Seed and Sowing Coordinator for the DL Phipps State Forest Nursery; 15 years of implementing portions of the Northwest Forest Plan that addressed mycology; and lastly, developing the EIS for Travel Management on the Lassen National Forest. I list these various jobs because they have provided me with a broad and nuanced understanding of forest ecosystem management in the Pacific Northwest.

I understand that revising the Northwest Forest (and its subsequent implementation) are herculean tasks. I will keep my comments brief and to the point.

Global warming is the existential crisis of our times! I cannot emphasize that enough. Forests of increasing age sequester and store much larger amounts of carbon than younger forests. While we still can, it is vital that we cease all logging of old and maturing forests in perpetuity. Retaining existing old and mature forests should be the primary goal of all federal forest lands.

Because there will always be unplanned losses of old and maturing forests to wildfire and other calamities, it is also imperative that enough young forests be managed to grow into maturity over centuries. Doing so will also go a long way towards protecting biodiversity.

Forest fires should also be managed for the goal of sustaining old forests across our landscapes. Get the tribes involved!

Best of luck.