

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/17/2025 11:39:01 AM

First name: Kirstie

Last name: Palmer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS Regional Forester Eberlien and Regional Forester Buchanan:

I appreciate how the DEIS is making an effort to update the NWFP of 1994. We absolutely need to address climate change, decades of habitat loss, and impacts to Tribes. However, I'd like to request that you strengthen protections for old-growth and mature trees in the USFS's preferred alternative, in the final version of the NWFP Amendment (NWFPA).

It is essential to protect the largest and oldest remaining trees in California's Northwest National Forests, and work to grow more mature and old-growth trees over time. This is key to promoting fire resilience for people and wildlife alike. And while the proposals in the DEIS to protect trees of 150+ years of age are good, we also need to develop and select an alternative in the final version of the NWFPA that does the following:

1. Protects the best remaining mature trees (those of 80+ years) that will become the next generations of ancient forest.
2. Preserves and strives to restore biodiversity and connected wildlife habitat across the region. This includes protecting more old forest habitat (such as trees 80+ years of age) to support impacted northern spotted owls, Pacific fisher, goshawk, and the many imperiled fish populations that depend on our public lands to survive.
3. Prioritizes Tribal inclusion and access in the decision making process around any changes to the Northwest Forest Plan. This would include opportunities for cultural harvesting and access, co-stewardship agreements, fire stewardship, workforce development, and youth education.

I also ask that the Forest Service retain the following element from the DEIS in the final NWFP:

To promote the restoration of old-growth forest ecosystems where ecologically appropriate in young forests.

Thank you for kind attention to my comments on the NWFP DEIS. I pray the Final EIS is more protective of ancient and mature trees, especially in the dry forests that have suffered so much from the catastrophic impacts of decades of old-growth logging, fire-suppression, and climate change.

Sincerely,

Kirstie Palmer