

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/22/2025 11:46:04 PM

First name: dixie

Last name: gilbert

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Dixie Gilbert and I am very concerned about the draft EIS for the proposed NW Forest Amendment #64745 that threatens to destroy even more of our national forests. I vehemently oppose any actions that infringe upon our all-ready disappearing natural environment. Service must reject plans to weaken core protections of the Northwest Forest Plan, and do the following:

1. Strengthen protections for mature and old-growth forests to ensure habitat, water quality, and carbon storage, and recruit more mature and old forests to restore a functional ecosystem.
2. Maintain or expand protections for the network of forest reserves to allow natural processes to flourish, ensure connectivity for wildlife, and support the recovery of imperiled species. Any reduction in forest reserve protections would increase harmful impacts such as habitat destruction, sediment in streams, and carbon loss, further endangering sensitive ecosystems.
3. Genuinely consult with Tribes, respect their sovereignty, and provide resources to support their full participation in decision-making. The Forest Service must support co-stewardship agreements, cultural burning practices, first food harvesting, and youth education while ensuring equitable access to planning processes. Pairing these components with the Forest Service's plan for weakened environmental protections is a false choice manufactured by the agency.
4. Address environmental justice by analyzing impacts on air, water, and communities and ensuring fair, sustainable working conditions.
5. Shift wildfire strategies to prioritize community safety and proven prevention measures over logging.

I request that all these points be taken into serious consideration.

Sincerely, Dixie L. Gilbert