

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/27/2025 10:41:37 PM

First name: Tiffany

Last name: Brown

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, USFS! I hope you are surviving this time of anxiety and budget cuts. We need you to help our forests and forest users. Thank you for doing the work you do.

I live in a small housing development surrounding by Deschutes National Forest, and grew up spending lots of time in Willamette National Forest. My family's business was logging-adjacent (heavy equipment). I understand the importance of timber to Oregon. But I think we all know those days are numbered.

I'm writing to ask that the Northwest Forest Plan be altered to include two important factors:

1) Save the mature trees, including but not limited to Old Growth. After the Milli Fire I spent plenty of time in the burned forest. Perfectly beautiful ponderosas with lightly singed bark had been cut down under the pretense of fire safety or fire cleanup or future fire prevention. Any fool could see that this was a big scam to enable timber companies to fell large, mature trees.

I understand that the USFS needs revenue and that the federal government has been starving the agency of needed funds for decades. Especially in this time of wildfire and climate change, we need the big mature trees! They are essential to forest health, carbon sinks, habitat, and they're a big tourist draw. Many of them survive wildfires and help the land recover from the fires. If all the big trees go away, many tourists will go away, too -- and with them, fees and licensing costs that outfitters pay you.

2) Speaking of tourism and such: public forests are intertwined with the communities they serve, especially the local ones. Please consider including us specifically in the Plan. Many of us help steward the forest alongside your employees. We are the trash picker-uppers, the trail groomers, the locals who tell the idiot out-of-state campers to put out their damned campfires at midnight, when the campers have gone to bed. Or we put the fire out ourselves. We are forest people. Many of our local businesses rely on forest-related services or serve the tourists who come to see the forests. Please include us in your plans. We matter.

Thank you,

T. Lee Brown