

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/10/2025 6:10:37 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

Thank you for your work on this important issue, despite the turbulence affecting all Forest Service staff at this time. I appreciate your service towards our forested ecosystems and the interests of future generations.

While I do not represent my employer in an official capacity with this comment, I am a forester professionally, and I work across the state of Washington conducting restoration forestry in a variety of forested environments on both sides of the Cascades that will be impacted by this decision. My work involves regular conversations with biologists about how to appropriately balance the needs of fire resilience and closed-canopy habitat. My work also entails large amounts of coordination with Tribes to preserve and enhance ecocultural values through forest restoration work.

Alternative D is the best option to address the shortcomings of the 1994 plan in light of new evidence and simultaneously meet the needs of the next few decades in PNW forests. In particular, I appreciate the following goals and objectives that distinguish alternative D:

- (TRIBAL-FORSTW-ALL-OBJ-03-D)
- (TRIBAL-FORSTW-ALL-GOAL-08-D)
- (TRIBAL-FORSTW-ALL-GOAL-09-D)
- (TRIBAL-FORSTW-ALL-PMA-D)
- (FORSTW-LSR-PMA-D)
- (FORSTW-LSR-MOI-STD-01-D)
- (FORSTW-LSR-MOI-DC-03-D)
- (FORSTW-LSR-MOI-STD-02-D)
- (FORSTW-MTX-MOI-OBJ-01-D)
- (FORSTW-MTX-MOI-STD-01-D)
- (FORSTW-LRS-DRY-DC-01-D)
- (FORSTW-LSR-DRY-DC-03-D)
- (FORSTW-ALL-DRY-PMA-D)
- (FIRE-ALL-OBJ-01-D)
- (FIRE-ALL-GDL-05-D)
- (FIRE-ALL-GDL-06-D)
- (ECONSUST-OBJ-01-D)

The one exception is (FORSTW-ALL-DRY-OBJ-01-B), in which I agree with Alternative B for its more aggressive allocation of resources towards dry forest restoration, which faces a short ecological timeline with impending climate change and the cumulative impacts of annual wildfires. I recognize that restoration thinnings at this level may temporarily exceed the targets in (ECONSUST-OBJ-01-D), but ultimately (ECONSUST-OBJ-01-D) sets more sustainable harvest targets.

Best of luck, and thank you,
Sebastian McRae