

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/11/2025 2:37:37 PM

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Comments: To Regional Foresters Jacque Buchanan and Jennifer Eberlien:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Northwest Forest Plan amendment.

I was born and raised in New Orleans and visited the Pacific Northwest in 1979. I was so impressed by the forests, lakes and mountains in this area that I moved here that same year.

They define the unique character of the Pacific Northwest and provide a priceless resource for all creatures who experience them.

The original Northwest Forest Plan was intended to last 100 years. To be good stewards of that effort we must repair its shortcomings and not allow it to be further degraded. None of the alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) are good enough to uphold that legacy.

The Forest Service should retain all of the Tribal inclusion plan components that are in Alternative B, but uncouple them from the forest management components that allow older trees and forests to be logged.

Preserving biodiversity and connected wildlife habitat across the region should be a core principle of this forest plan amendment. This includes not only threatened species, but others that have been impacted by the loss and fragmentation of their habitat, and those awaiting state and/or federal Endangered Species Act listing decisions.

The amendment should recognize the wide variety of social and economic benefits National Forests provide for local communities and the region as a whole - not just timber, but also clean water, climate stability, quality of life, and outdoor recreation.