

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/12/2025 2:56:01 AM

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Comments: I live in Crow, Oregon, in the country. My husband and I own forestland and pastures. Here are several general comments I'd like to share about the NWFP amendments.

* A good amendment should expand protections for mature and old-growth forests. This is essential in a time of accelerating climate change, loss of biodiversity, and decades-long drought. The definition of mature and old-growth forests should be 80 years, not 120.

* The largest natural carbon reserves in North America are in the NWFP, and an amendment must emphasize and safeguard the vast amount of carbon that can be sequestered and stored in these forests. Yet carbon sequestration gets only a few sentences in hundreds of pages of this DEIS. Emphasis on carbon sequestration needs to be much stronger.

* Preserving biodiversity and connected wildlife habitat across the NWFP region should be a core principle.

* The amendment should have a Tribal inclusion plan, including co-stewardship agreements and a beneficial fire approach.

* An amendment should recognize many benefits National Forests provide for local communities and the region, not just timber and jobs, but also clean water, quality of life, and outdoor recreation.

* Fire resistance and resilience can be increased by preserving and restoring mature and old-growth forests. Commercial logging for fuel reduction can hurt wildlife habitat, remove large fire-resistant trees, and create hazardous fire conditions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely, Kate Gessert