

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/15/2025 8:58:38 PM

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Comments: Greetings.

I want to see public forests in the Northwest thrive for generations to come. The Northwest Forest Plan Amendment should strengthen forest protections.

Logging of old-growth forests is not appropriate for management of public lands. These older forest areas are prized by recreationists and not only provide essential habitat for imperiled species and safeguard our region's water sources, but also mitigate severe climate and fire effects. "Dry" forests should have a Logging Diameter Limit of 21" DBH. The dry forests of southwest Oregon should be given the same diameter limit for logging of large trees as the dry forests of eastern Oregon: 21" DBH.

Salvage logging should be excluded in dry forests. Salvage logging should be prohibited in all Late Successional Reserve forests. The analysis for the amendments to the Northwest Forest Plan proposes the arbitrary age of 120 years as the limit for logging in Late Successional Reserve (LSR) moist forests, and 150 years as the limit for logging in dry forests. I believe that these numbers do not reflect the value of mature and old-growth forests. I ask that the Forest Service keep the 80-year age limit protecting trees and stands that are more fire resilient and will more quickly turn into old-growth forests.

Fire resilience could be improved by focusing non-commercial fuel reduction near homes and communities, while retaining fire resilient older forests in the backcountry setting, eliminating timber quotas, and when conditions allow, managing wildfire ignitions to create more intact fire regimes. Backcountry logging and fuels work far from homes and communities does not improve the fire resilience of homes and communities, and does not help communities meet their firewise objectives. Rural communities need help in creating defensible space near to these communities where previous timber extraction has disrupted ecological succession and resulted in massive standing fuel loads. The backcountry work, far from homes, just takes resources and funding sources away from rural communities.

The Klamath-Siskiyou Ecoregion is not adequately represented in the analysis for the amendments to the Northwest Forest Plan. The Klamath-Siskiyou Ecoregion has 35 species of conifer, and 200-plus species of trees in general; however, the analysis for the amendments to the Northwest Forest Plan simply lump this complex and unique ecosystem into the simplified, non-diverse forests east of the Cascades. The diverse forests of the Klamath-Siskiyou Ecoregion operate on an entirely different fire regime, especially due to the extreme topographical relief which creates terrain-driven fire effects and encourages smoke inversions that reduce fire severity. With the incredible botanical diversity of the Klamath-Siskiyou Ecoregion, fire regimes vary from watershed to watershed as the flora and species assemblages change, all with their own, unique interactions with wildfire.

It is my hope that the regeneration, conservation, and stewardship of intact ecosystems will become a top priority in the ongoing management of our public lands.