Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/17/2025 1:29:35 AM First name: Emma Last name: Bartlett Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support portions of the proposed NWFP Amendment while holding major concerns for some of the changes. I support the aspects of tribal sovereignty and environmental justice, including proactive prescribed burning, but there are also changes that will weaken protections for this region's forests, wildlife habitat, and clean water. I was just out in a national forest today and as we walked, we frequently saw very apparent timber sale lines, where one side had beautiful mature trees, more wildlife diversity, and a healthy number of snags and woody debris for forest critters, while the other side had overpopulated monocultures due to previous clear cutting. The latter is truly less like a forest than a farm, and it's inconceivable to me that this is permitted on federal land. The trees that grow are strained due to increased competition for sunlight and are much more susceptible to blight and disease. I've found that the second type of forest draws far fewer birds and simply fails to support the local wildlife in the ways they really need. We must protect our remaining mature and old growth trees to confront both the climate and biodiversity crises. When we do so, we get the added benefits of reduced flood and erosion risk, storing and holding atmospheric carbon long-term, and increased resistance to fire. I am from North Carolina, so I can tell you coming from a different place how special the forests are to the PNW. We have something so unique and ecologically vital, and we have yet to treat it like the wonder it is. Please treasure our mature and old growth forests while we still have any left to save.