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First name: Mark

Last name: Hamlin

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The revised Northwest Forest Plan should allow the professionals in the USFS to use their best judgement. Given the enormous impacts of fire suppression, past clearcut logging, and now climate change adaptive and active management is desperately needed. Our NW forests are sick, overstocked, and nothing like the pre-Euro-American native forest. The USFS should be free to pursue "active management" that is adaptive to evolving conditions. Furthermore, decisions made by the USFS should not be subject to NEPA in its current form. The latter hands way too much power to some poorly informed environmentalists who are all too willing to stop everything; in the name of plantation Douglas-fir the new "old growth." That's not to say that all environmentalists are so poorly informed; rather, that some abuse their power. The decision-making process needs to be rebalanced so that professionals can do their job.

The first NW Forest Plan was well intentioned but biased toward environmental politics, at the expense of science and reasonableness. Let's hope the revised plan strikes a better balance, and one that allows the science educated professionals to do their job, the way they think it should be done.

I'm providing this opinion as a forest ecologist, educated in forest science. Furthermore, I have no financial interest in the outcome of this policy, past, present or future. I only want the best for the ecosystems and the public at large. The professionals at the USFS are the best ones to make those types of decisions, not urban environmentalists who think they know, but actually don't know, what they are talking about. Best regards, Mark Hamlin