

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/17/2025 6:15:59 PM

First name: Raymond

Last name: Vernon

Organization:

Title:

Comments: This amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan seems to prioritize logging and predictable timber harvests over the benefits that mature National Forest lands provide, including climate resilience, clean air and water, and recreation opportunities. Timber is a sustainable and climate-friendly resource when practiced appropriately, and there are benefits from selective harvesting of forests.

This amendment; however, exceeds an appropriate practice of timber harvesting and will result in an imbalance where the amount of product taken from the forest will greatly exceed what is being grown in a given year. Prioritizing clear-cutting over selective harvesting will reduce the overall amount of trees in the forest, increase the average temperature of the forest, and increase wildfire potential due to higher temperatures and higher soil transpiration. There are many approaches to protect the forest from wildfires, but cutting the whole forest down is not a good option.

With federal funding currently being halted to nonprofit organizations that specialize in replanting forests, there is no guarantee that clearcuts will even be replanted. No option that includes additional clearcutting should be considered without explicit guarantees that adequate and stable funding exists for replanting.

Our Northwest forests are a tourism draw, famous around the world, adding millions of tourism dollars into local businesses per year. Reducing recreation opportunities and peppering every vista with views of clearcuts will harm local businesses and the substantial draw of eco-tourism to our region will be limited. I want today's youth to have the same opportunities and admiration for the wilderness that I grew up with, and substantially increasing timber harvests across the Northwest will lessen access to our forests and make them a less desirable place to experience.

Any changes made now are short-sighted at best, prioritizing short term timber harvest gains for hundreds of years of damage to the ecosystem and reduced tourism dollars. I urge a decision of no change on the proposed amendment.