

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/17/2025 8:06:40 PM

First name: Fred

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi,

I have lived in Oregon since 1990 and have always had a home in a forested area. I love living in the forest and they provide clean air and psychological wellbeing to one and all. I'm living on 6 forested acres right now, and I try to promote old growth by thinning smaller trees for firewood. My family and I have hiked on numerous forest trails all over Oregon, Washington and Northern California, and we immensely enjoy their beauty, protection and sacred life enhancing properties.

I believe strongly that amendments to the NWFP should retain all of the Tribal inclusion plan components analyzed in the DEIS. I support elements of the proposed amendment that include a beneficial fire approach and support of Indigenous cultural burning. Management decisions should reflect Tribal stewardship practices, uphold sovereignty, and ensure meaningful consultation & engagement with Tribal communities. Pairing these components with the Forest Service's plan for weakened environmental protections is a false choice that needs to be restructured.

I am concerned that the Forest Service's proposed amendment to the NWFP weakens protections for our region's older forests, clean water, and wildlife habitat. If enacted, these changes would significantly increase logging levels across our public forests, open mature and old-growth trees to commercial logging, and sideline the protections that communities, wildlife, and ecosystems depend on. Preserving biodiversity and connected wildlife habitat across the region should be a core principle of this forest plan amendment.

Fire resistance and resilience can be bolstered by preserving and restoring mature and old-growth forests. Fuels and fire management should focus on the home ignition zone and on non-commercial treatments and beneficial fire use, not commercial logging. Indigenous cultural burning and wildland fire use should be prioritized. Commercial logging for fuel reduction can negatively impact wildlife habitat, remove large fire-resistant trees, introduce invasive species, and create hazardous fire conditions. Standards must ensure that fuel reduction is both needed and effective before logging is allowed.

The amendment should recognize the wide variety of social and economic benefits national forests provide for local communities and the region as a whole - not just timber, but also clean water, climate stability, quality of life, and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Thank you,
Fred Chambers