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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a retired federal park ranger I select/support Alternative A - No changes in the Northwest Forest Plan.

I respectfully submit these explanations for my selection of Alternative A:

Three out of your four alternatives weakens protections and expands logging on National Forests lands so therefore I am adamantly OPPOSED to the following:

1. Logging in "Late Successional Reserves" (LSRs) that are up to 120 years old (the current Northwest Forest Plan protects forests in LSRs from logging that are 80 years old or older). This would open up 824,000 acres to logging eroding protections of old growth forests established in the Northwest Forest Plan in 1994.
2. Logging at least one-third of dry forest stands (e.g. ponderosa pine-dominated forests common to central Oregon as well as mixed conifer stands in southwest Oregon) over 15 years- a total of 964,000 acres.
3. Doubling the amount of commercial logging in national forests. According to the DEIS, the Forest Service logged approximately 504 million board feet of timber from the 17 National Forests within the Northwest Forest Plan area in 2023. The proposed changes aim to log over twice that amount annually, over one billion board feet.
4. Aggressive logging and to the fact that your plans of Tribal inclusion of co-stewardship with Native Americans only involves aggressive logging!
5. The weakening of protections for wildlife species which would be ecologically/environmentally detrimental to our public lands
6. Dismissing the need for species specific conservation measures.

I respectfully submit the following

recommendations/suggestions to be included in the the Northwest Forest Plan:

1. Non-discriminatory co-stewardship of our public lands involves all Americans and Tribal nations in every aspect of planning and decision making of the Northwest Forest Plan.
2. That your decision making be based on scientific studies and sound decision making and not just to back specific special interest groups/lobbyists
3. Mature and old growth forests must continue to be protected, undisturbed and preserved as they are still recovering from the massive logging a quarter of a century ago. They store a large amounts of carbon which must be safeguarded as they store far more more than young forests and are much more fire resistant than plantation style forests!
4. The new Northwest Forest Plan must include existing Wilderness Areas and plans for expansion in the future. They were unacceptably excluded in the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
5. Continued support of the US Forest Service's 2012 planning rule of maintaining and restoring the integrity of

ecosystems and watersheds under Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations 219.8(a)(1).

6. The Northwest Forest Plan must protect environmental habitats by reducing logging and road building that comes with the logging. These National Forests are already fragmented due to extensive logging of old growth forests that subsided 25 years ago.

7. Need to establish migration corridors and protect the native flora and fauna.

8. No more logging allowed of mature and old growth forests including post-fire salvage logging. Allow thinning of tree plantations for current fair market value to reduce fire hazards.

9. Protect and restore riparian areas and watersheds. The plan currently reduces the size or protective standards of these riparian areas. May be necessary to gradually reduce the numbers of livestock permits allowed to ensure protection of these habitats.

10. The water quality of streams and fish habitats must be protected which could mean reduction of logging on tree plantations near streams.

11. Maintain trailheads and campgrounds and access to each. Temporary Closures may be necessary from time to time due to overuse.

In closing, our National Forests provide economic, recreational, and social benefits to visitors, commercial operations, and the surrounding communities. They should not be exploited by aggressive logging or relied upon for certain timber volume as there is abundant logging on non-federal lands. National Forests were established for multiple responsible uses for all to enjoy and benefit for generations to come. I appreciate the privilege of commenting publicly and thank you for considering them for inclusion in your final Northwest Forest Plan.

Kate Mabry