

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/17/2025 9:44:13 PM

First name: Nadene

Last name: LeCheminant

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service Staff,

My name is Nadene LeCheminant and I am a long-time Oregonian who has concerns about the proposed Northwest Forest Plan.

I know you have received a lot of comments about the science of why we should offer strong protection for mature and old growth forests. I agree with ecologists and climatologists, but I also want to share more personal feelings.

I spend a lot of time walking and sitting in forests, and every year I see less wildlife. Every year there are fewer old forests to visit. The pace of change is deeply unsettling. We are losing wild places, and their inhabitants, at a staggering rate. So little human energy is devoted to saving the bears and bobcats and marbled murrelets and 100-year-old Douglas firs that share this Earth with us.

Our greatest planetary emergency, in addition to climate change, is the loss of biodiversity. We need to prioritize lasting protection of the older forests that support biodiversity. Honoring other species is our obligation as humans.

Our older trees are the last remnant of a magnificent heritage. I urge you to do everything in your power to safeguard our old growth forests, and to allow mature trees to become old growth trees.

Specifically:

*Mature and old-growth forests should not be re-defined.

*Unlogged mature forests in LSRs should have our strongest protections.

*Logging of mature and old-growth forests should not be increased in Matrix lands.

Sincerely,

Nadene LeCheminant

Salem, Oregon