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Comments: Amendment for NWFP #64745

Comment on flaws in the DEIS

The Pacific NW forests are an integral component of a life sustaining NW environment. Particularly, mature and old growth forests are critical to cool rivers that allow salmon and other keystone species of fish to survive and feed a variety of ecosystems, including trees! The nutrients they bring in from the ocean are essential for riparian forests. Riparian forests are critical for inland forests and all help draw down water from clouds and cool the forest floor, rivers and streams.

Without tall forests cooling and moistening the land, the effects of global warming on our forests will be more severe, leading to ever greater and uncontrollable wildfires. And, as we know, older trees draw down far greater amounts of carbon.

With this understanding, losing any more native Siuslaw National mature and old growth forest is unacceptable, against our common good, including a sustainable timber industry.

The DEIS must be significantly revised for wet and rainforest life zones and incorporate wildfire refugia science for the goal of wildfire resistant forests. Revision must also incorporate the science of retention and build-up of sequestered carbon for the Siuslaw National Forest's wet and rainforest life zones.

For wildfire resistance, forest thinning for all moist, wet and rainforest forests must maintain at least 75% canopy cover post-thinning. 75% or more forest canopy is necessary in wildfire refugia management strategies.

I have seen what commercial forest thinning looks like- Clear cuts that destroy clean water for fish and drinking, with landscape replaced by invasive species of grasses that fuel unmanageable wildfires. Commercial thinning must be replaced by Forest Service budget funded for science based thinning.

DEIS Alternative B topics are severely remiss addressing wet and rainforest zones of the Siuslaw National Forest. Fire resistance, not resilience, must be the goal of forest management in the Siuslaw National Forest. Fire Resilience is appropriate for human communities. Home hardening, not forest management for fuel reduction is the path to human community resilience. I suggest you see films of the Paradise fires to see whole communities burned to the ground with trees still standing.

I endorse the Coast Range Association's (CRA) comments on the DEIS. Please fully consider the CRA's comments. The Siuslaw National Forest is one of the greatest carbon sequestering forests on the planet. Plan amendments must reflect this.

Humanity is unequivocally facing a climate emergency. I applaud the inclusion of climate issues in the DEIS. However, the DEIS's analysis is dated and not current to real world conditions and the scale of destructive events. Future climate conditions are arriving sooner than DEIS's climate discussion suggests. Please read the three citations in the Coast Range Association's comments on climate warming impacts racing ahead of climate model predictions.

Thank you for considering these comments in our mutual goal of sustaining a livable, thriving earth with sustainable forestry and forest communities.

Sincerely,

Harriet Cooke MD,MPH