

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/18/2025 12:25:26 AM

First name: Barry

Last name: Buchanan

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the Northwest Forest Plan.

I am and have been an avid recreationist in Northwest forests for about 30 years and in that time have learned to appreciate the importance of protecting them from further degradation. We are at a critical time right now to prevent further habitat and biodiversity loss and climate disruption, and I agree that some amendment is appropriate in light of this situation.

The Northwest Forest Plan established in 1994 was a landmark set of policies that essentially quieted the "timber wars" going on at the time. It would be a true shame to start undoing that legacy.

The US government executive branch seems to be intent right now on throwing out existing law (and imposing tariffs) to encourage and allow greatly increased timber harvesting from our public forests. This is not sustainable and may cause irreparable damage. Forestry needs to be done sustainably and carefully using the best current science, in ways that are appropriate to local ecosystems (e.g. moist forests vs dry, needs of local species, etc.).

I oppose changes to the definition of tree maturity in the amendment.

I applaud the tribal inclusion that is long overdue.

I disapprove of the huge expansion of timber board feet to be harvested.

I am opposed to changes that bypass, ignore, or subvert current environmental laws including the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), the 2012 Planning Rule, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Travel Management Rule, and the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Not enough attention is given to these in the proposed draft.

I am increasingly concerned that the Forest Service will not be staffed sufficiently to manage the current plan, let alone an amended plan.

Please act to ensure the Northwest Forest Plan continues to work as begun and intended in 1994.

Thank you,
Barry Buchanan