

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/18/2025 3:38:51 AM

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Comments: Dear Regional Foresters Buchanan and Eberlien,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I am a resident of Curry County in southwestern Oregon. My property is bordered on one side by National Forest, and I care deeply about the future of these unique forests. I have two major concerns about the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment Draft:

1. The plan to increase the age limit of trees available for logging from 80 to 120 years in moist forests and from 80 to 150 years in dry forests.
2. The use of a simplistic moist-dry framework which does not account for the complexity of the unique mixed conifer-broad-leaved evergreen forests of the rugged Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains.

Neither of these proposals is appropriate for the public lands and National Forests of southwestern Oregon.

Raising the age limit of trees available for logging will significantly reduce the extent of mature and old growth forests in our region, causing harm to a range of threatened and endangered species.

Our forests are considered "dry," and yet they can receive 200 inches of rain a year. These highly biodiverse forests have a mixed-severity fire regime and many unique tree and fire-adapted plant species. We need to ensure that the special values of the region's ecosystems are not lost with a generalized approach intended for pine forests of eastern Oregon.

In addition, this region has extremely steep slopes and a notably high density of streams, making many areas less suitable for logging.

The proposed alternatives focus on the economic benefits of increased timber harvest but do not take into account the values of ecosystem services that forests and healthy aquatic ecosystems provide nor do they sufficiently analyze the values of other high-value sectors, such as outdoor recreation, that are also major economic drivers in our region.

In conclusion, I'd like to see the Northwest Forest Plan continue to emphasize conservation to protect mature and old-growth forests and the important water quality, wildlife habitat, carbon storage and other ecosystem services they provide, while better incorporating indigenous perspectives. The Forest Service should target forest management activities in wildland-urban interface areas to more effectively protect homes and communities from wildfire risks.

Thank you for your attention.