

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/18/2025 3:40:46 AM

First name: Elianne

Last name: Lieberman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: This is what frames my response:

I am a biologist and environmental educator. I love hiking in our NW Forests, looking up to the tree tops, and all the way down to their roots. I look for what's growing in the soil, plants, signs of animals. I am thrilled to catch a glimpse of a deer, or hear the song of a bird.

Our native forests are living, breathing ecosystem that support diverse plants, animals and microorganisms.

The indigenous people knew how to interact with forests, in a way that allowed for both using the forests resources to sustain themselves and to maintain the forest's health and integrity for generations to come.

Us folks who's ancestors came from other lands have not been as wise. Since the time of European settlement 72% of old-growth PNW forests have been lost.

Specifics:

A. With the continuing rise in global temperature, intact forests are more important than ever. Our wet forests of the PNW have the highest CO2 potential than in any other place in the world, more than in the Amazon. We are not utilizing that capacity.

Therefore, future commercial timber harvests MUST NOT be included as a management practice in Late Successional Reserve areas. Option B's proposal to harvest stands in LSRs up to 119 years of age is a bad, bad, idea and wrong forest management.

B. I have read the report and recommendations the Coastal Range Association made. There is no need for me to repeat all their reasoning, just the recommendations, and statements on climate change, that I agree with. They are as follows:

1. Recognize and incorporate wet and rainforest life zones, coupled with Plant Association Zones and Mean Annual Increment metrics into a revised set of mapped forest types.
2. Recognize, incorporate and celebrate the world class growth and accumulation of forest biomass - including above ground carbon.
3. Ecologically account for past forest removal from the SNF and all national forests.
4. Discard the notions of fuel load and industrial wildfire use for wet and rainforest life zones. We support the DEIS approach of not using fuel load reduction, a totally unwarranted strategy, for moist, wet and rainforest zones.
5. Consult relevant tribes for appropriate fire use in wet and rainforest life zones.
6. We are now at "code red" on planet Earth. Humanity is unequivocally facing a climate emergency.
7. Future climate conditions will likely arrive sooner than the DEIS's climate discussion suggests.
8. DEIS Alternative B listed topics are severely remiss addressing wet and rainforest zones.

8.a Forest Stewardship: Fire resistance, not resilience, must be the goal. The DEIS lacks a fire resistance narrative in light of anticipated climate warming.

8.b Fire Resilience: Is appropriate for human communities. Home hardening, not fuel reduction, is the path to human community resilience.

8.c Climate: Is not one among many issues - it is THE issue for Pacific Northwest forest management.

8.d Ecosystem Integrity: Cool, temperate wet and rainforest ecosystem integrity is not supported by commercial timber removal and extensive road networks.

8.e Carbon: World class sequestration of atmospheric CO2 is a natural outcome of proper forest stewardship when managing for wildfire resistance and ecosystem integrity.

9. The DEIS must be seriously revised for wet and rainforest life zones and incorporate wildfire refugia science for wildfire resistant forest management.

10. DEIS Alternative B must base forest thinning for wildfire resistance and the retention and build-up of sequestered carbon for wet and rainforest life zones.

11. Forest thinning must maintain at least 70% canopy cover and preferably more canopy cover when possible.

12. Commercial thinning must be replaced by Forest Service budget funded thinning.

13. Supportive infrastructure for dispersed recreational activities must be part of the DEIS.

14. The Forest Service is to be applauded for maintaining Late Successional Reserve areas. However, future commercial timber harvest MUST NOT be included as a management practice in Late Successional Reserve areas. Option B's proposal to harvest stands in LSRs up to 119 years of age is a dead-in-the-water idea and wrong forest management.

I am making the following comment only because of President's Trump recent Executive Order to prioritize logging in our National forests. I don't know if this order will be challenged in court. In any case it is short-sighted, and undoes the efforts and time that the Forest Service and citizens took to propose, comment and implement rules and regulation that gives equal priority to public use and wildlife. I grew up in New York City, where your connection to place is that everything is man-made. What I love about living in the PNW is I can be in a city, or driving the highways, and know that I am part of the natural world. It pains me to see the clear-cuts as I drive from Portland to the Coast.

Please do not scrap the protections for our PNW forests.