

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/18/2025 3:50:18 AM

First name: Steve

Last name: Tift

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support a more proactive approach regarding the management of public lands. Native American communities have been managing the Northwest environment long before there were "old growth forests". Glad to see the USFS attempting to start managing forests.

We can all learn from our ancestors. Fire has been used as a tool to control vegetation for at least the last 12,000 years. As the climate warmed and the Northwest landscape changed from open tundra to forest ecosystems, indigenous communities created a mosaic of landscapes for hunting, food gathering, and most importantly safety. They preferred open forest to see and sense the environment around them. They learned to live with fire and learned to use fire to protect their communities. We need to rethink how we manage our public lands. The do-nothing approach is not working and detrimental to the health of our Northwest Forest Ecosystems. We all know the effects of 100+ years of fire protection, but we still haven't comprehended the effects of millions of acres of set aside, unmanaged forest landscapes. We are just beginning to see the devastation of a century of fuel buildup. Diseased stands of forests which in the past were kept in check by natural and manmade fires. Its catastrophic. As the climate continues to warm, it will be more of the same. We need to start managing our landscapes. We want old growth forests, a variety of plant and animal species, healthy communities, we need to manage for them. And we need to start soon. Our forests have been neglected for too long. Alternative B and D are a step forward, but we need to do more.