



File Code: 1950

Date: December 21, 2023

Re: Northwest Forest Plan Amendment

Dear Friends and Neighbors of the Northwest Forest Plan Area:

The USDA Forest Service's Pacific Northwest and Pacific Southwest Regions are initiating an amendment process for the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP). This process is driven by evolving ecological understandings and the need to adapt our management strategies to current and future challenges.

Amendment Focus Areas:

- **Fire Resistance and Climate Resilience:** Adapting the NWFP landscape to enhanced fire resilience and climate change adaptability, leveraging recent data and predictive models.
- **Mature and Old-Growth Forest Management:** Revising strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of mature and old-growth forests considering recent ecological studies and long-term forest health metrics. Adding relevant NWFP Area guidance in support of the planned Old-Growth amendment to all National Forest System unit land management plans.
- **Community and Economic Considerations:** Aligning timber and non-timber product supply strategies with community needs, environmental justice principles, and Tribal collaboration, reflecting the socio-economic dynamics influenced by forest management.
- **Wildlife Habitat Protections:** Updating habitat management approaches within the NWFP framework to incorporate new findings on species interactions and habitat requirements, particularly in mature and old-growth ecosystems.

Invitation for Expert Input: Your expertise and experience are invaluable in refining these amendments. We seek your insights, particularly on the practical implications of these changes and any unforeseen consequences they might entail.

Important Dates / Submitting Comments:

- **Public Scoping Period:** Closes February 2, 2024.
- **Submission Details:** Please refer to the [Federal Register notice](#) (88 FR 87393) and our [project website](#) for comprehensive details on the submission process.

Additional Resources for Review: The following key documents have informed the preliminary needs for change and are available to view on project website or via this [Notice of Intent Public Documents](#) folder.

- 2018 Synthesis of Science (Spies et al.)
- 2020 Bioregional Assessment of Northwest Forests
- 2021 Supplemental Report to the Bioregional Assessment



Contact for Detailed Queries: Dennis Dougherty, Planning Portfolio Supervisor

- Email: sm.fs.nwfp_faca@usda.gov
- Phone: 541-519-0154
- TDD: FIRS at 800-877-8339 (available 24/7).

We value your contribution and look forward to your active participation in shaping a scientifically robust and contextually relevant amendment to the NWFP.

Sincerely,

(for) ELIZABETH BERGER
Acting Regional Forester
Pacific Northwest Region

JENNIFER EBERLIEN
Regional Forester
Pacific Southwest Region