

NORTHWEST FOREST PLAN FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

SEPTEMBER 25 - 27, 2024
SKAMANIA LODGE
STEVENSON, WASHINGTON

Introduction: The Northwest Forest Plan Federal Advisory Committee (the Committee or FAC) held its sixth meeting September 25 - 27, 2024, in Stevenson, WA. The Committee was established July 7, 2023.

Objectives: Receive an update on the Proposed Action and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) content; share initial input ahead of the DEIS public release. Discuss the process and timeline following the September meeting, including Implementation and Leadership Commitments related to key issues in forest management that fall outside of the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) amendment scope.

Attendees: The FAC members, staff, contractors, and the public who attended are listed in Appendix B.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Welcome and Land Acknowledgment

Cory Archer, Facilitator, True Wind Collaborative - Contractor for Udall Foundation

Jacque Buchanan, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester – Region 6, U.S. Forest Service and Designated Federal Official for the NWFP Amendment Process (DFO)

Jennifer Eberlien, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester – Region 5, U.S. Forest Service

Susan Jane Brown, FAC co-chair, Silvix Resources

Travis Joseph, FAC co-chair, American Forest Resource Council

The facilitator called the room to attention and welcomed the Committee members, Forest Service staff, and members of the public. The facilitator welcomed Laurel Harkness, Director of Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition, as the newest appointed Committee member representing local conservation organizations.

The Designated Federal Official (DFO) welcomed attendees to the sixth in-person meeting, recognizing the Forest Supervisor for hosting the Committee on the field trip and acknowledging Dr. Jerry Franklin and Elaine Harvey for their contributions. The DFO shared a land acknowledgment, honoring the sovereignty and role of the four Columbia River treaty Tribes, recognizing the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Nez Perce Tribe.

The DFO thanked Committee members for their commitment and acknowledged the long journey. They noted that the work is now going beyond the Amendment Recommendations Report, with Congressional briefings underway and more work ahead. The DFO mentioned that the Forest Service

received the Draft EIS this week and is reviewing it, with intentions for the early October release. They expressed appreciation from both the Department of Agriculture and Forest Service for the Committee's efforts, highlighting this joint effort between Region 5 and Region 6. Linda Walker and Meryl Harrell, Deputy Under Secretary, would later join to discuss the National Old Growth Amendment (NOGA) component.

Jennifer Eberlien, Regional Forester for Region 5, expressed her appreciation for the unprecedented work accomplished and looked forward to sharing these achievements with the broader public.

The Committee co-chair thanked Jerry Franklin, Elaine Harvey, and the Forest Service for the productive day and meaningful conversations during the field trip. They expressed gratitude to Forest Service staff who coordinated logistics and recognized Dr. Jerry Franklin's passion and deep knowledge, which made the field trip inspiring. The co-chair extended thanks to Elaine Harvey for her leadership and to her family and Elders for reminding the group of the cultural values, first foods, and challenges that Tribes face. The co-chair emphasized that the FAC is listening, with a goal to identify concrete steps forward—not just to listen, but to act.

A FAC member clarified that what had been heard during the field trip represented only one of 80 Tribes, noting that experiences held by each Tribe are unique. The FAC member expressed hope that all concerns would be addressed, considering the individual issues each Tribe faces.

Public Comment

The Committee heard from nine public members during the time for public comment and received nine written comments. The public comment period closed on September 13, 2024. Themes from oral testimonies include:

- **Fire Management and Indigenous Practices:** Emphasis on integrating Indigenous burning practices in fire management. Tribal inclusion is seen as essential to effective fire inclusion, including the use of wildland fire. There is advocacy for shifting from fire suppression to using fire as a tool, as outlined in federal policies that already allow for such measures.
- **Post-Fire Recovery and Trail Management:** The need to improve clearing limits in post-fire areas was brought up, with a focus on maintaining trails for fire resilience. There was a suggestion to use brush corridors along trails as a cost-effective fire prevention practice that avoids the lengthy environmental impact assessments required for other methods.
- **Timelines and Collaboration:** Recognition of the FAC's work in meeting its timeline and commendation for collaboration with local Tribes on stewardship efforts. There's encouragement for the Forest Service to continue meeting these deadlines and working closely with partners.
- **Economic and Community Impact of Forest Management:** Several participants raised concerns about the economic impacts of forest policies, particularly the loss of revenue for counties historically dependent on timber harvests. There is a call for better communication and engagement between counties and the Forest Service, with concerns that some communities are economically suffering due to reduced forest management activities.
- **Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) and Land Management:** There is a need for updating old assessments, particularly regarding Late Successional Reserves (LSRs), and adjusting forest management plans (like the NWFP) to reflect modern science and economic realities. Timber

industry representatives stress the importance of considering economic impacts in any amendments to the NWFP.

- **Environmental and Ecological Concerns:** Some participants advocate for less emphasis on "management" and more focus on ecological approaches that highlight the connection between humans and the environment. Specific concerns include opposing actions like the killing of Barred Owls and advocating for stronger protections for old-growth forests and the establishment of green corridors between urban and wild areas.
- **Sustainable Forest Management:** Calls for sustainable forest management practices to address both environmental and economic concerns. This includes managing forests for resilience to fire and invasive species while considering the impacts on small, rural communities that depend on the timber industry.
- **Timber Industry and Economic Stability:** The importance of the timber industry to local economies was stressed, particularly in terms of employment and the viability of mills. Any changes to forest management plans must consider the potential economic fallout, such as increased unemployment and mill closures.
- **Forest Rejuvenation and Logging:** Advocacy for increasing the acreage available for logging to meet both economic and ecological goals. Rejuvenating fire-damaged forests is seen to create opportunities for both recreation and wildlife habitat, while also supporting the timber industry.

The facilitator thanked attendees for their comments and for sharing their insights. The Committee was then invited to share reflections about the field trip, public comments, or feelings coming into this week. Reflections from the Committee included:

- A member highlighted the importance of consensus recommendations and looked forward to hearing how the Forest Service would respond with Proposed Actions.
- Several members shared their pride in the recommendations produced, acknowledging the collaborative effort of the FAC. One noted how incredible it was to see communities coming to unanimous consensus and expressed hope that this unity could extend into rural communities.
- Recognition of the significance of the upcoming Leadership Commitments recommendations and concerns about failing Tribal communities.
- Acknowledgment of the impact of the Forest Service budget crisis and its potential effect on Committee work.
- Concern about the safety of issuing mass commercial permits. There is a need for more oversight in the permitting process to prevent over-exploitation of resources.
- Noting the importance of Plan Component language in the amendments, acknowledging the compromises made and the need for specificity.
- There is a lack of Committee representation of rural and distressed communities. There was a call for more openness and consideration of public comments to address this gap.
- Pride in the work accomplished by the FAC. A member noted that much of what the Committee aims to do will require additional funding for the Forest Service, Tribes, and communities. They suggested coming together to advocate for initiatives like the NW Economic Adjustment Initiative to support these efforts.

Proposed Action Overview

Shasta Ferranto, U.S. Forest Service

Don Yasuda, U.S. Forest Service

Jacque Buchanan, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service and Designated Federal Official for the NWFP Amendment Process (DFO)

Jennifer Eberlien, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service

The Forest Service presented a preview of the Proposed Action and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) content. The FAC Recommendations served as the foundation for developing the Proposed Action for the DEIS. The Proposed Action aligns closely with the FAC recommendations, maintaining high fidelity to their intent; however, while the Proposed Action resembles the FAC recommendations, there are some differences, primarily from targeted internal review and the need to adhere to regulations and policy.

The Agency did not identify a preferred Alternative, rather the Proposed Action is Alternative B.

The DEIS can be expected to include:

- Purpose and Need for Action
- Alternatives:
 - A: No Action
 - B: Proposed Action
 - C – D: Variations based on public comment
 - Considered but eliminated
- Effects Analysis

The purpose of the DEIS is to:

- Translate feedback into plan content that is implementable and complies with policy
- Ask the public what was missed or incorrect
- First look at possible effects from different options and
- Ask the public what should be included in the final Plan Amendment and environmental impact statement

Discussion/Questions

Q = Question, A = Answer, C = Comment

General

- **Q:** What is the difference between the Proposed Action and a Preferred Alternative?
A: The Proposed Action puts the proposal on the table. A preferred alternative gives nod to what the agency anticipates will happen. Often it can be helpful for an agency not to identify a preferred alternative to ensure the public provides a full breadth of comments on all the alternatives being considered. Sometimes feedback can be constrained if a preferred alternative is mentioned. The hope is to create space for further refinement.

Tribal Inclusion

- Q:** Is there a comparison of the Tribal Inclusion recommendations in the Proposed Action versus the FAC Recommendations?

A: There is a copy of the FAC Recommendation Report for reference.
- Q:** Some language was changed regarding Tribal Consultation to “Consultation with federally recognized Tribes.” Will there be engagement with non-federally recognized Tribes, state-recognized Tribes, or Tribal people in that process?

A: Absolutely. There is a formal process for Tribal Consultation that applies only to federally recognized Tribes, but the Forest Service engages with non-federally recognized Tribes as well through other processes. The language change did not occur everywhere, it is specific to legal obligations around Consultation.
- Q:** Regarding Tribal inclusion, where there is no language in the existing NWFP, what will it look like? The 2012 Planning Rule was mentioned—will there be line edits?

A: The Proposed Action will follow the format of the 2012 Planning Rule document. The team referred to this amendment as an overlay but heard that term was confusing. To clarify, the Forest Service developed a draft ~140-page table, included as an appendix to the DEIS, which provides a red-line markup showing all changes to plan content. This helps show where content has changed. However, the No Action Alternative is not written in the same language as the Proposed Action. It’s tricky not just because of the 2012 Planning Rule, but also because not everything in the original NWFP was implemented exactly as written. For example, the timber volume objective from the original plan hasn’t been close to achieved. So, when looking at changes, it's difficult to compare directly.

Forest Stewardship

- Q:** Is the last slide a complete desired condition, stating, "the distribution of forest types, species composition, and structure reflects topography, moisture availability, soils, history of tribal stewardship, and other site conditions. Distribution of species and forest types can vary at both fine and broad scales?"

A: This is one of several desired conditions common to all landscapes.

Q: The statement doesn’t address all aspects of future resiliency in the face of climate change.

A: Since the FAC recommendations included more directed climate change plan components, there are additional climate change emphasized plan components. This is part of a broader suite of components.
- C:** A FAC member elevated the importance of capitalizing "T" in "Tribes."
- Q:** Could there be value in including language that recognizes the stand and its broader landscape context?
- Q:** If the FAC hypothetically supports the "3-class model," considering the FAC Recommendations worked toward a 2-class dichotomy of Dry vs Moist forests, how would a 3-class model be implemented?

A: It would require significant work. The Draft and Proposed Action attempt to acknowledge FAC discussion. Neither "moist" nor "dry" are singular categories, and fire plays a diverse and

important role across these landscapes. The plan must be implementable, and both fire managers and the public need to agree. The intent is to create flexibility for local collaborations and decision-makers to assess specific watersheds and determine which desired condition aligns best.

- **Q:** Regarding "Aging Stands and Trees," is there clarification on when to focus on aging a stand versus individual trees? From an outside perspective, this could complicate ongoing work.
A: This guideline applies to both moist and dry environments. The distinctions between moist and dry stands are clear in the suite of Plan Components, but this specific plan component doesn't provide those instructions.
- **Q:** Scale is crucial for the moist versus dry and stand age question. Are there guidelines specifically around that? Age wasn't intended as a Guideline; it's a Standard.
A: The Management Approach presented differs from the Standard that distinguishes these conditions.
- **Q:** Can historical timber harvest records be used to define mature and old stands, especially in managed forests?
A: In managed moist forests, those records exist. In unmanaged stands, other methods would need to be applied.
C: Historical fire records, such as the 1902 fires, could also help establish mature forests.
- **Q:** When the term "stand" is used, can there be clarity on its meaning?
A: More time is needed to clarify this term between draft and final EIS. The team is still working through implementation and consistency issues.
C: The group urges consistency in terms like "forest stand" versus "Siskiyou," where a stand could range from a quarter acre to an entire watershed. Defining what constitutes a stand is crucial.
- **Q:** How many landscape types are there? The current representation seems overly generous, especially regarding fire diversity. Forestry tends to follow trends, and fire seems to be the current one. However, fire isn't beneficial everywhere, particularly in old-growth forests. The concern is that fire could harm old-growth stands, especially in moist forests that take a long time to develop. One wrong decision could lead to serious downstream consequences, as demonstrated in Lookout Mountain.
A: For context, this graphic is from the Bioregional Assessment 2018, it is not in the DEIS.

Dry Forest

- **C:** There are many terms here that feel ambiguous and open to various interpretations. While some of this may be intentional to allow flexibility based on on-the-ground conditions, it raises concerns. Terms like "reference conditions" and "appropriate to site conditions"—whose judgment determines these? This isn't a criticism but rather an observation. Many FAC members have also noted this. The intent seems to be providing flexibility and ensuring adaptability in the field, but at the same time, trying to achieve everything for everyone on every acre might not be

practical. The concern is that this language could be so ambiguous that it becomes unclear what is being asked, leading to a situation where almost anything could be justified. It's important to critically assess whether this ambiguity will hinder implementation.

- **Q:** The phrase "reducing wildfire risk to communities and infrastructure"—does it apply specifically to the Community Protection Area (CPA) or is it more broadly attributed?
A: The language is designed to allow flexibility and avoid conflicts when prioritizing wildfire risk to communities. It provides some discretion in decision-making.
Q: Could the language be clarified and made more specific?
A: This is an excellent opportunity for comments to guide the Forest Service in making the language clearer. Comments can significantly improve clarity.
- **Q:** The statement "all trees older than 150 years"—what is that based on? If it's based on characteristics, what happens with trees that are 175 years or 152 years? Without flexibility, this could lead to public disputes.
A: The intent isn't to create a rigid standard at exactly 150 years. It's meant to be paired with the previous slide for additional context.
- **Q:** Can a hardcopy of the DEIS be sent to the FAC when published?
A: Yes, the Forest Service will send a hard copy of the DEIS to the FAC upon publishing.
- **Q:** Is there somewhere that would define numbers, for example, "Dry forest salvage should retain a high number of large snags..." is there a definition for "high number" or is that left up to local discretion?
A: Dry forests cover a broad spectrum of conditions, so the team doesn't assign specific numbers. Instead, they rely on the best available scientific information. Although using fixed numbers can seem easier, it often doesn't make practical sense.
- **Q:** The language mentions "protecting the existing road system, especially in LSRs." Was this added by the Forest Service or included by the FAC?
A: The exception for the existing road system was added to address the Forest Service requirement of maintaining safety within the current road infrastructure.
- **Q:** Is the use of "shall" versus "should" to provide the Forest Service with more flexibility? What's the reasoning behind this choice?
A: There's a subtle but important distinction. Under the 2012 Planning Rule, "shall" is used in standards to indicate mandatory actions, while "should" is used in guidelines. "Should" allows for flexibility but still requires that the objectives of the guidelines be met.

Moist Forest

- **Q:** Why does the language on the slide indicate mature forest stands are just being conserved rather than protected, as indicated for old forest stands?
A: The FAC Recommendations had some allowances for limited management in stands within certain age ranges. The term "conservation" is used to acknowledge that limited management may be permitted in these areas.

- Q:** Is it the case that in the Matrix, we are allowing more harvest in some mature stands compared to the LSR?

C: Mature stands are presumably being conserved with the intention of them becoming old growth.
- Q:** In Moist forests, are mature stands still defined as 100–200 years old?

A: Yes.

Q: So within that age class in the Matrix, some ecological forestry is allowed?

C: Page 37 of FAC Recommendations addresses this well—there is space for management or stewardship if supported by Best Available Scientific Information (BASI), site-specific requests, or Tribal requests.
- C:** Timber is not mentioned, which is the main difference between Matrix and LSR. The main objective of the Matrix is timber output.

Moist Forest – Desired Conditions

Moist Late Successional Reserves

- Q:** A participant asked for clarification, noting they thought "stand initiation dates" were used instead of "stand ages" for moist forests but saw a reference to 120 years. They asked if "stand age" was being used instead of "origination date."

A: The team clarified that origination dates were used for the Matrix, and 120 years was applied for the LSR.
- Q:** How did the writing team approach the careful use of the term "cultural fires?"

A: In addition to the Tribal Inclusion section, the writing team incorporated references to Tribal uses throughout the Proposed Action. They aimed to be explicit and make it clear that "cultural fires" is not the sole Tribal language but an important reference.

C: There is need for caution when using the term "cultural fires" as it may have legal implications that could impact Tribal sovereignty.

Moist Matrix

- Q:** What if there is arson and somebody intentionally sets fire to these Old Growth stands in Matrix because they think it would benefit their local community?

C: This will be flagged for future discussions on potential clarifications or scenarios to give advice to the Forest Service.

C: There was discussion that there was potential if this rule was in place, such actions could be resorted to for that reset. The FAC did not include specific language to address that.
- C:** Regarding reducing wildfire risk to communities, the Forest Service might want to specify "except to provide for Tribal uses and in Community Protection Areas" as to better clarify where work can be done in Old Growth stands for community protections.

C: The Forest Service wouldn't likely be able to create such changes before the release of the DEIS but can incorporate between the Draft and Final.

- Q:** Will Adaptive Management Areas (AMAs) be following the same recommendations when thinking through different parts of the landscape?

A: Yes. The FAC recommended adopting the underlying land use allocation. LSRs that were AMAs will follow LSR guidance, Matrix AMAs will follow Matrix guidance.
- C:** A participant noted their support for being more specific regarding wildfire risk to communities, particularly within wildfire or community fire protection areas. They mentioned that, when referring to infrastructure, it typically includes utility corridors. They emphasized the importance of keeping infrastructure in the language, as it was intentional and not overly permissive. They also expressed efforts had been made to address this concern.
- Q:** Is the use of “timber harvest” intentional versus “timber production?” Does the Forest Service mean both under the 2012 Planning Rule?

A: The Forest Service tried to mirror what was in the FAC Recommendations narrative.

C: This is coming up in NOGA as well. The language needs to be intentional and accurate.
- C:** A FAC member expressed concern about the flexibility in the guidelines, clarifying that no one in the timber industry is advocating for timber production in 175-year-old stands within a moist Matrix. That’s not the intention. They emphasized that good forestry and science should allow for management in areas like 135-year-old stands with high stem density, which may require intervention. The FAC member supported maintaining and restoring ecosystem integrity but questioned the time scale for achieving it. They encouraged thinking about whether a short-term impact could lead to a long-term gain and stressed the importance of considering forest management with that perspective in mind.
- C:** A member raised a concern about how the classification of stands is being handled over time. They noted that while discussions focus on old, mature, and young forests, the current approach suggests that any stand established after 1905, regardless of how old it becomes, remains available for management. They questioned whether a forest established in 1910, for example, would still be considered a “young moist forest” even at 115 or 135 years old. The participant pointed out the potential issue of labeling such stands as perpetually available for management, even as they transition into more mature stages over the decades. They emphasized that this classification could become problematic when looking at the situation 50 years from now.

C: This is the paradox of using “young mature” and how that might implicate interpretation down the road.
- C:** There is an important distinction between “sustainable supply” and “Sustained yield.” “Sustained yield” is the law, “sustainable supply” is meaningless and different. The FAC’s focus on young moist stands within the Matrix is centered on practicing perpetual forestry for timber yield from that land base.
- Q:** If younger forests are being managed for wood production using ecological principles, those management treatments will contribute to all the stated objectives. This is not a possibility but a certainty—these treatments will support the desired outcomes. The goal is for managed forests

to meet all these objectives while simultaneously producing wood. Why doesn't the language read as "will" and reads as "may" contribute?

A: Using the term "will" can be interpreted as "must," which in plan component language is a Standard. This particular item is a Guideline.

Moist Matrix Salvage

- **C:** It may help with the public and the Committee if there was a reference as to what determines a live tree; there are nuances involved.
- **C:** Is there ambiguity in "retain all live trees" in the context of resprouting hardwood? Could be confusing in terms of brushing? There could be ambiguity when managing vigorously resprouting species, such as Maple, which would technically be considered live trees. This is something to think about to ensure the approach moves beyond a conifer-centric perspective.

Fire Resilience

- **Q:** Wildfire risk seems to be a constant concern for communities, Tribal values, and infrastructure, yet the phrasing suggests "in areas where..." as if it's not ubiquitous. What was the intent?
A: This is in reference to previous discussions about using more recent advances in quantitative wildfire risk assessment. The language emphasizes that these assessments allow for differentiating levels of risk based on context, such as whether fire sources are located above or below a community, which can significantly impact the relative risk. The direction of fire spread under expected conditions also plays a role. In this approach, the quantitative wildfire risk assessment provides a gradation of values, helping to better understand and manage wildfire risks.
- **Q:** A FAC member expressed concerns about the use of the word "coordination," suggesting that some communities might just expand their CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) and force management decisions. Could this become a larger issue?
- **C:** Does the language imply the use of PODs (Potential Operational Delineations) and PCLs (Potential Control Locations)?
A: PODs and PCLs are not part of the Standards or Guidelines but considered as part of the Management Approaches.
- **Q:** A FAC member discussed the process for determining Community Protection Area boundaries, noting that it seems the Forest Service is becoming more engaged at the local unit level in community wildfire protection planning compared to how they currently participate. While there are places where the Forest Service is fully involved, bringing tools and analytics to the conversation, there are also areas where they are largely absent. The member reflected on the original intent of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) as described and authorized under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, which required certain signatures from secretaries or state forestry officials to qualify for special authorities under NEPA. Over time, the use of CWPPs

has evolved, and many are now created locally without necessarily involving those signatures or formal agreements from all parties. This creates some ambiguity around the agency's formal adoption of these areas in relation to CWPPs. The participant pointed out a potential gap in the legal framework, as the role and significance of CWPPs have evolved, leaving uncertainty about who must adhere to them and how they are legally recognized.

C: Great points. The intention was to make this forward-looking, allowing future CWPP revisions to define CPAs (Community Protection Areas).

- **Q:** How does topography factor into “apply within 1 mile” language? The 1 mile could cover diverse landscapes and may require flexibility beyond that distance.
A: That is what made this so challenging. For the analysis, the team needed to select a specific number.
C: Feedback would be helpful and is the basis for input that could lead to further dialogue and adjustments between Draft and Final.
- **Q:** This is an issue related to NOGA, as the planning rule doesn't allow for selectively applying plan components based on location. Since CPAs have not yet been designated, there's uncertainty about where plan components will apply until those areas are established. How is the Forest Service threading that needle?
A: CPAs are not intended to be fixed-map areas. By nature, they are adaptive and mindful of lands with specific characteristics. For DEIS analysis purposes, a defined boundary is needed for comparison to the No Action alternative, but variations based on slope, topography, wind, and other factors will be considered.
Q: Is this approach similar to what was done in Sierra - Sequoia?
A: Yes, though slightly different due to the quantified wildfire risk assessment had been conducted for those two specific forests, focusing on high-value resources and assets that needed protection. While a full assessment for all forests is not yet available, this model is being considered for refining the process at the local level. The goal is to establish broad plan direction that guides the overall process, but the specific details need to be developed on a site-specific and local basis. This approach is also an example of using a management area strategy.
- **C:** A FAC member flagged that there already are community comments and feedback on CPA concepts and reminded the group to keep that input in mind. For example, in Oakridge with the Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative, they provided input as to why a CWPP is more appropriate than a POD or other designation, so it is important to recognize designations may look different per area.

Economic Opportunities and Sustainable Communities

- **Q:** This goes back to how to distinguish young stands in dry and moist forests, and it implies a return to stand-scale management in dry forests while suggesting active management only for young stands in moist forests.
C: The focus is not on just treating young stands in dry forests. In moist forests, active management is being considered, but this is not the approach for dry forests. In dry forests, the

goal is to preserve significant old trees.

A: Combining dry and moist forests under one objective is challenging. The team is continuing to evaluate this, recognizing the need for further refinement. There may be a clearer way to delineate the two, possibly by adding more specific language or separating the objectives.

C: Addressing dry and moist forests separately could help avoid confusion.

- **Q:** Can you explain how this compares to the No Action Alternative?

Q: Can you show this broken down by each National Forest in the EIS and also compare it to the No Action Alternative?

A: The Proposed Action involves 490 million board feet (49,000 acres per year), while the No Action Alternative is 450 million board feet (22,000 acres per year) as currently implemented. This is different from the original NWFP, which projected 883 million board feet. In 2001, the Forest Service revised the PSQ to 600 million board feet.

C: There's additional analysis underway, so won't go into too much detail at this point. The challenge is in clearly articulating this in the draft because the numbers are difficult to compare. They're not quite apples to oranges, but there is some variation. The actual figures include some salvage, as they reflect what was actually done, whereas the projections moving forward represent only green volumes sold and don't account for potential salvage, which is unpredictable. We're working on how to best explain this so the numbers are clear and meaningful.

- **Q:** A lot of volume came from LSRs (Late Successional Reserves) that wasn't counted toward harvest levels. What if that volume was accounted for?

A: The 450 million board feet is based on the last decade of data and would not include that number.

- **C:** The current plan indicates that only 2% of the Northwest Forest Plan's land base will be treated every 10 years. In terms of estimated timber volume, the projection is just over half of what the Northwest Forest Plan promised 30 years ago—about 60-65%, which was already an 80% reduction from previous levels. Throughout the process, various communities, County Commissioners, and others highlighted the essential connection to the land for rural communities. It's important to carefully consider how this will be explained to the public. The No Action Alternative suggests doubling the acres treated, but this will only result in a 10% increase in timber volume. There is a challenging task ahead in communicating to the public that, after 30 years, only 60% of the original promise is being delivered. This is devastating for infrastructure and rural communities, and it's unclear how to effectively explain these outcomes.

A: These aren't the totality of the acres treated. There are additional Forest Service treatments that don't necessarily contribute to timber volume. Another set of acres falls under the fire resilience objective, which includes burning and other fuels treatments. These treatments are focused on reducing risk, but those acres weren't included here because they don't contribute to timber volume.

C: The way this is being described refers to the major land allocations of the Northwest Forest Plan. These treatments aren't tied to sustained yield, they're not ongoing indefinitely, and they're not something that partners can consistently rely on. As these numbers are being presented, it's crucial to not only explain what has happened historically to reach this point but also to address the need for a dramatic increase in proactive stewardship of public lands. On a 24-million-acre land base, it's surprising that the projected volume level is only about 60% of what is being produced today. Currently, the Forest Service is producing around 600 to 700 million board feet annually in Region 6, with a recent year reaching 710 million board feet. The 490 million board feet being projected represents only 60-65% of what the Forest Service is doing right now, and this is having a devastating impact on the infrastructure. It's important to consider the feedback and implications of this, particularly for the infrastructure that is already diminished but is essential for managing this land base. The workforce, loggers, truckers, and the entire supply chain are affected, and the signal being sent out with these numbers suggests the situation is only going to get worse.

A: The numbers are based on specific calculations, and it will be important to clearly explain the assumptions used in the Draft. This will allow the FAC to validate whether the assumptions align with their thinking. There is a possibility that an incorrect assumption was applied during the calculations. Sometimes, due to data limitations, necessary assumptions are made that might not account for all factors in the mathematical model.

Assistance from the FAC will be needed to ensure the language was accurately translated into the modeling assumptions that produced these numbers. If any assumptions are incorrect, feedback and corrections will be welcomed.

DFO: These numbers will need to be validated quickly, before the DEIS is released.

C: The age limit has been increased, restoration of plantations in moist forests has been opened up, and the entirety of the dry forest is now available. Yet, despite these changes, the projected output shows less than a 10% increase, which doesn't align with the expanded opportunities. It's important to be cautious about relying too heavily on current circumstances and today's budget limitations. The Forest Service is still exploring and slowly adopting new efficiencies, so basing future goals solely on current conditions could limit potential achievements.

Once a specific number is set, it becomes the target rather than striving for what could be achieved without that constraint. This makes the current numbers, in light of the recommendations, particularly disheartening. There's a need to validate these figures before moving forward, and fortunately, there's still time to do that. The validation process will help ensure the numbers align with the recommendations and reflect the full potential.

- **Q:** Is part of the underlying assumption on the numbers that smaller diameter material would be part of the expanded treatment?

A: The team has been looking into why the projected numbers are lower than expected. It seems some of this is based on information received from the field, where additional harvest in dry forests is not achieving the anticipated volume per acre. This may be due to assumptions based on recent projects, but it could also be a case of limiting thinking to past practices rather than considering the new opportunities under the proposed amendment.

The current plan might not fully reflect the potential under the new framework, and the recent interpretation of what can be done in dry forests could be impacting expectations. To meet the

goals described—specifically reducing the risk of loss to old forests and trees in the dry forest—there may be a need to rethink the assumptions and the scope of treatments under the amended plan.

- **Deputy Under Secretary:** Another important point to consider is that the planning rule requires objectives to account for fiscal capability and other conditions. What other places have done is describe a "stair step" approach, where objectives can increase based on factors like partnerships or additional capacity or funding. This is why the objectives aren't set as sustained yield numbers—there's a key difference there.
Engaging in dialogue and feedback on how to approach this, especially with the expanded set of opportunities, would be constructive. There is a need to understand what it would take to reach these goals. Additionally, it's important for land management planning to include reliable numbers in the plan that can be anticipated and used for future planning.
The objectives should reflect the current situation and the available data, while also incorporating the planning rule's requirement to consider fiscal capability. At the same time, there should be opportunities to expand the scope if partnerships are developed or additional capacity is gained.
- **Q:** To what extent are fiscal realities or projections suggesting that the recommended objective, particularly for the dry forest, isn't realistic? It seems the objective is being set as far as possible within fiscal constraints, but there hasn't been an attempt to model what it would look like to treat one-third of all dry forests over 15 years. What acreage would that involve?
- **Q:** These numbers are confusing, and it's difficult to fully understand them until the final DEIS is available. However, if one of the major constraints is funding, the Forest Service needs to be very upfront and explicit about that. This sends a clear message to Congress, which has been underfunding the agency for decades, leading to real consequences. The responsibility for this issue should be clearly placed on the government. It's not the agency that is failing; it's Congress that is failing to provide the necessary funding for the work that needs to be done.
- **Q:** It would be helpful to know more about the background, but it's likely that the feedback from the field regarding modeled versus actual yields in dry forests is related to the Fish and Wildlife Service's interpretation of spotted owl habitat requirements. There appears to be a mismatch between what the Committee agreed on for conserving dry forests, particularly old dry forests, and the constraints imposed by the Fish and Wildlife Service.
When modeling this out, it's uncertain how that will affect the plan. However, it may be best for the plan to clearly state what is intended and considered appropriate, and then let the Fish and Wildlife Service respond with any restrictions or adjustments they may require.
A: Part of the feedback also indicated that, especially in designated critical habitat, there are constraints during consultations with other agencies that limit what can be done. These constraints often differ from what the Forest Service believes is needed for ecological restoration.

- C:** One issue that came up at the FAC meeting in Weaverville was related to project design and some of the constraints involved. For example, projects that require work on 40 acres, then reloading and driving 5 miles to work on the next 10 acres, create significant inefficiencies. This seems to be more of a leadership communication issue regarding project design. There are opportunities for improving efficiencies that would allow current resources to be used more effectively and stretch funding further.

The Forest Service has been slow to adopt many of these efficiencies, and this could be an important leadership commitment moving forward. Leveraging these efficiencies could help meet the objectives being discussed with the current capacity.
- Q:** How well do the numbers reflect the goal of moving aggressively into regeneration harvest in plantations? Given that there should be significant yields from these regeneration harvests in older plantations, is it believed that this has been adequately reflected in the projections?

A: It's unclear how specifically that was modeled, but it's suspected that it may be underutilized or under-modeled. The assumptions were likely based on current practices, and since regeneration harvests in plantations aren't being done at the expected scale, it's possible that these factors weren't fully built into the model, including assumptions about the rate of regeneration in those plantations.
- Q:** Why is the plan as implemented being used as the No Action Alternative rather than the actual 1994 Northwest Forest Plan as written? It feels like a comparison of apples and oranges. This is the plan, and here's the new plan, but since the old one wasn't fully implemented, it's difficult to compare. It seems like cherry-picking, where the message is, "We wanted to do this but couldn't, so here's where we are now, and we're doing more." From this perspective, it could be interpreted that, in terms of analysis, the same reduction is expected for the new plan as was seen with the old one—about half or 60% of what's projected might actually be implemented.
- A:** The intent here is more from a NEPA perspective, which commonly uses the No Action Alternative as what is actually being implemented, rather than what was originally planned or expected. That's why this approach was taken. When comparing the effects of the alternatives, analyzing something that was never fully implemented can be misleading and may create a false sense of what it means to select the No Action Alternative. This is especially true if certain aspects of the original plan were not feasible. This method is standard in agency NEPA processes.

Range of Alternatives

- Q:** The comment period is scheduled for 90 days, but it coincides with the election, holidays, and a presidential transition. Can it be extended to 120 days?

A: Discussions have taken place about this. The plan is to start with 90 days, and if we see that an extension is needed, we will extend the period.

C: Several members support the suggestion for a 120-day comment period.

C: If the comment period is going to be extended, it should be done early. There's nothing worse than getting to day 80 and hearing about an extension.

- **Q:** With the transition in administration, what is the risk? Could the process be pulled after the transition? What is the risk to the whole process?
A: The strength of this process is that it crosses party lines and represents strong work. Regardless of the outcome, we should be able to move forward, though there's no absolute guarantee.
- **Q:** Does the administration have the ability to stop this process, no matter how far along it is, because it's an amendment?
A: While it hasn't happened in previous Forest Service staff experience, it's within the realm of possibility.
- **Q:** The FAC has been assuming that the Forest Service is prepared to undertake regeneration harvest in the plantations. Without that, it seems yields won't be achievable. What are the perspectives of the Regional Foresters? The agency has avoided regeneration harvest—can this be seriously considered and discussed?
- **DFO:** Yes, the Regional Foresters feel confident in saying that the agency is prepared to discuss regeneration harvest.

National Old Growth Amendment and Q&A

Linda Walker, Ecosystem Management Coordination Director, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service
Meryl Harrell, Deputy Under Secretary, U.S. Forest Service

The Committee heard a presentation on the National Old Growth Amendment (NOGA) DEIS, including an overview, timeline to date, intent, next steps, and the sequencing and timing of efforts between NOGA and the NWFP. At the time of the meeting, analysis of comments was underway from the 90-day comment period that closed on September 20, 2024.

The NOGA would amend forest plans across the National Forest System and would establish a baseline for conservation of old-growth forests. Compared to the NWFP, NOGA is on an earlier timeline with a broader geographic application, narrower scope, and general direction. The NWFP would amend the 17 land management plans within the range of the Northern Spotted Owl and incorporate the NOGA baseline plan direction and optionally refine with greater specificity to its area of the country.

The facilitator thanked the Director and Deputy Under Secretary for the presentation and invited questions or comments from the Committee.

Discussion/Question

Q = Question, A = Answer, C = Comment

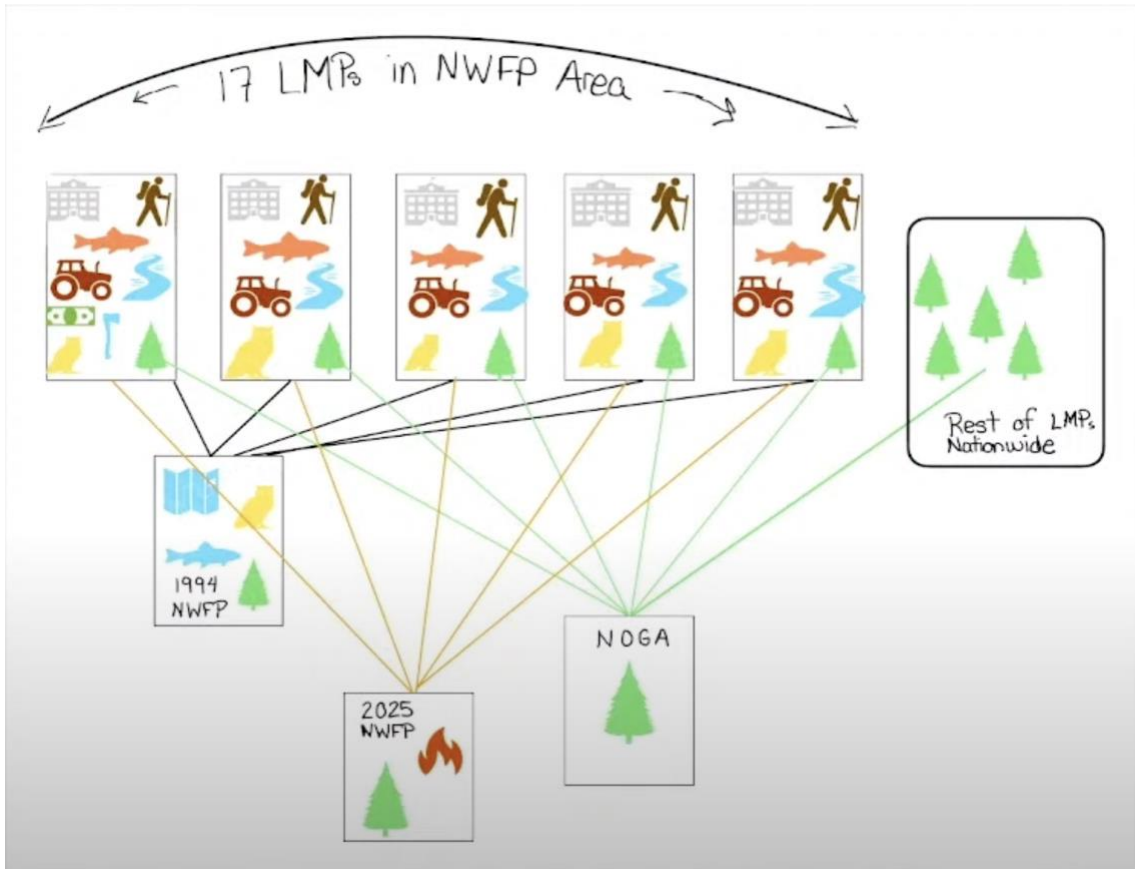
- **Q:** Conceptually, the process is understandable, but practically, there seems to be a challenge. Amending 17 forest plans under the Northwest Forest Plan with NOGA, followed by amending those forest plans again, potentially six months later, raises concerns. When conducting the analysis, a national EIS will examine the effects while simultaneously considering the recommendations and proposing a preferred action. This process will need to account for the

impacts of NOGA. The question arises on how these amendments can be done concurrently. On one hand, there are specific changes being worked on, and on the other, a more generic amendment is being finalized. It seems one of these amendments needs to be completed and analyzed for its effects before considering the recommendations and how they will change in the context of NOGA. Doing both simultaneously could create potential issues with the NEPA analysis, particularly in understanding how NOGA and the Northwest Forest Plan interact, as these are different amendments with different effects.

A: Yes, they are different. NOGA is not final, and while its finalization is anticipated, including it in the analysis of the Northwest Forest Plan EIS would be incorrect at this point because it is not yet completed. What is currently posted in the draft may not reflect what the final version will look like, so analyzing it now would not provide accurate information. NOGA can certainly be referenced in the EIS and acknowledged as something in progress, but it cannot be part of the No Action Alternative at this stage, as it isn't finalized.

C: It's understandable that NOGA can't be fully integrated into the Northwest Forest Plan EIS yet, but by the time the Northwest Forest Plan is finalized, NOGA will already be in effect. For example, if the final NOGA maintains a "no commercial harvest of old growth" policy, it could impact the suitability of the land base. How does that align with what is being considered in the Northwest Forest Plan and the recommendations from the FAC? These may be consistent, or they may be at odds, but an action will have already been taken with NOGA. When analyzing the amendment, it's important to consider that the same plans may have already been amended under NOGA. This raises a process issue that may be difficult to reconcile for some stakeholders. What is the baseline—the original forest plans or the plans as amended by NOGA, which will then be amended again? This procedural issue is causing confusion, both for constituencies and the public. Drafting two plans simultaneously that are connected in practice but not in analysis could create challenges in understanding how they work together.

- **C:** It seems as though right now, there's a forest plan that will be amended by NOGA, regardless of the decision. Simultaneously, you're in the process of amending that same forest plan through the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment. Instead of going back and amending the forest plan with the NOGA amendments included, it seems like the process involves going back to the original forest plan and almost bypassing or removing the NOGA elements. Is that what's being suggested?



A: The five boxes at the top represent all 17 Land Management Plans within the Northwest Forest Plan area, symbolized with different icons. These plans are comprehensive by nature and cover a wide range of elements, such as infrastructure, farming, water, wildlife, and trees, which is why various symbols are used.

On the left side, the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan Amendment (“1994 NWFP”) amended portions of those 17 Land Management Plans but did not address everything. It covered specific areas, added new elements, and even delineated areas not part of the original plans.

NOGA then amends only the parts of the Land Management Plans that focus on old growth. It applies not only to the 17 Land Management Plans but also to all Land Management Plans nationwide.

The 2025 amendment to the Land Management Plans within the Northwest Forest Plan area (“2025 NWFP”) will amend the old growth sections again, incorporating NOGA’s changes while adding new elements like addressing the wildfire crisis. Amendments are, by their nature, targeted and do not cover everything.

The 2025 NWFP does not amend all aspects of the 1994 NWFP. Some elements remain unchanged, as mentioned earlier. This piecing and parsing process through amendments is complex.

In response to the earlier question, this breakdown shows the steps and how each plan addresses different areas, illustrating the layered and complex nature of the process.

C: A FAC member reiterated their question of when all these Forest Plans are amended with NOGA, a new plan is created because it incorporates the NOGA amendments. These plans will then need to conduct analysis based on the NOGA elements. However, the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment is amending the old plans—the ones from before NOGA—without analyzing how NOGA is taken into account. The process is complex, but the issue is that the analysis is based on the old plans, which have already been amended by NOGA. The plan is to amend them again without additional analysis, which creates a challenge.

A: This isn't uncommon in planning. Many plan revisions take anywhere from three to ten years, sometimes spanning multiple administration changes. New policies or directions, such as executive orders, can come into effect and change the No Action Alternative.

What might be causing confusion is that while NOGA won't be included in the draft, it will eventually be part of the No Action Alternative. The Northwest Forest Plan isn't amending the original plans alone; it's also incorporating NOGA. There will be work between the draft and final stages to integrate NOGA into the analysis.

C: The public may have an issue with that because they will want the opportunity to comment on it during the draft stage, rather than only having the option to object to it in the final amendment.

- **Q:** An example of the concern might be this: The Northwest Forest Plan calls for Late Successional Reserves, which were designed to set aside and identify old growth areas. If a national amendment, like NOGA, comes along and says reserves aren't necessary, or areas don't have to be identified, the question becomes: Which takes precedence? The existing system of old growth reserves, or the new policy stating that reserves are no longer required?

A: NOGA is designed to create consistency across all plans in addressing old growth, with NOGA serving as the baseline. If existing Land Management Plans, such as those under the Northwest Forest Plan, have greater specificity in managing old growth, that will remain in effect. NOGA does not override or wipe out those existing protections.

In the development of the Northwest Forest Plan, there is still the option and ability to make minor changes between the draft and final versions to ensure it aligns with the desired outcomes. NOGA sets a baseline, but many plans across the country do not even address old growth management. NOGA's goal is to elevate the management of old growth to a national priority, not just in the Northwest but across the entire country. The Northwest has been addressing old growth for decades, and NOGA does not supersede that work.

- **C:** The challenge is that, for the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment, NOGA is a reasonably foreseeable future action, as defined by the agency's NEPA regulations. This means NOGA and its effects, even though it's not yet final, need to be incorporated into the cumulative effects analysis for the Northwest Forest Plan EIS. NOGA will change before it's finalized, which complicates including it in the analysis, but from a legal vulnerability standpoint, it's essential that the agency thoroughly addresses this. Many are concerned about it, as it showed up in comments on NOGA, and it's a recurring topic. The

agency needs to spend considerable time working through the cumulative effects analysis to ensure it is addressed thoughtfully because it will be closely scrutinized.

Additionally, NOGA will be finalized by December, right in the middle of the Northwest Forest Plan comment period. This means that people commenting on the Northwest Forest Plan will need time to consider how the final NOGA aligns with the plan. For that reason, extending the comment period to 120 days is crucial, as it will provide time to digest and understand how NOGA impacts the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment. It's important that this extension is granted early, rather than being announced at day 80. Please consider giving 120 days for public comment.

- **Q:** NOGA received criticism over the issue of mature forests, and it's likely that many of the 150,000 public comments addressed the lack of consideration for mature forests. There was some language suggesting that mature forests could become old growth, but it seemed limited. Based on the public comments and concerns surrounding mature forests, will there be stronger language or guidance in the final NOGA regarding mature forests?

A: All the public comments are currently being analyzed, and yes, many questions were raised about mature forests. The executive order specifically addressed both mature and old growth forests, while the NOGA primarily focused on old growth. There were also comments offering other perspectives, with some suggesting that the balance was handled correctly. As seen in the draft Environmental Impact Statement, mature forests are identified, with some (not all) having the potential to become old growth in the future. The identification of these conditions, along with the intentional and proactive management of those areas, is still recognized in NOGA.

- **Q:** What will the Northwest Forest Plan look like if the amendment doesn't happen? In the worst-case scenario, NOGA will amend the current Northwest Forest Plan. From this perspective, that would mean old growth forests and Matrix lands would be set aside, while Adaptive Management Areas (AMAs) and the remaining old growth forests would be impacted. Currently, there's the restriction that land use allocation boundaries can't be changed, but management within those allocations can be adjusted. The question is, if the process stalls or takes longer and NOGA is passed and signed, how will the current Northwest Forest Plan be affected by NOGA? This raises curiosity about the potential outcome if the amendment doesn't move forward as planned.

A: As far as NOGA is concerned, it doesn't supersede the current protections in place. If you're considering a scenario where the 2025 Northwest Forest Plan is stalled or doesn't move forward, the real question is whether the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan has the protections you're concerned about. NOGA wouldn't interfere with those existing protections.

Q: Currently, in the Matrix lands and Adaptive Management Areas (AMAs), old growth forests are eligible for commercial timber harvest. With the National Old Growth Policy, it's assumed that NOGA would overlay those remaining old growth forests in the Matrix and AMAs, potentially changing how they are managed. The question then becomes: How will those old growth forests be managed under the new policy?

A: NOGA will defer to old growth definitions in the current forest plans, or if those definitions are deficient, it will augment them with additional conditions or criteria from regional definitions. In the case of the Northwest Forest Plan, the regional definitions are in sync with

NOGA. What's happening now is an update and revision of the definitions for old and mature forests. "Old" is defined by age criteria or stand establishment dates, while for "mature" forests, NOGA will provide some discretion on management to ensure the continued conservation of old growth. However, it won't prescribe exactly how to manage those areas, leaving room for interpretation.

The goal of the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment is to ensure that the original direction, plus the proposed changes, meets NOGA's intent of providing a conservation strategy for mature forests to develop into sustainable old growth. This was the purpose of the amendment—to protect old growth where necessary and manage mature forests to eventually replace old growth.

There doesn't seem to be an inherent conflict between the Northwest Forest Plan and NOGA, but it will require revalidation and interpretation. The adaptive strategies and monitoring elements of NOGA may require additional work, which could be handled at the regional or forest levels. NOGA provides discretion on defining the right scale for implementation, which may not require every forest to follow the same approach.

The current amendment may not address every element of NOGA, particularly in terms of adaptive strategies, but it likely covers the majority of it. For example, monitoring criteria for old growth and mature forests already exist from the 1994 direction, which may still be fully adequate. Overall, there's confidence that the Northwest Forest Plan will largely meet the requirements that NOGA will ask to be fulfilled.

- **Q:** If the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment process were to stop and only the national direction remained, it could potentially leave things as they are now, with much of the old growth and mature forests unprotected. Unless the national directive clearly prioritizes the conservation of existing old forests, the current situation might persist. The national amendment doesn't seem to prioritize the conservation of existing old forests as its primary directive. In this case, it's possible that, without major changes or the loss of the current process, the region might be better off than others due to the existing old growth policies in place. One could argue that nothing more needs to be done, even though not all the old growth is currently protected. Would you agree with this assessment? If the NWFP Amendment dies but NOGA stands, depending on the final form, it could mean nothing would change at all in the Pacific Northwest.

A: Depending on what the final is, correct.

Q: The National Old Growth Policy is supposedly going to protect old growth forests in Matrix lands, but those parcels need to be identified and managed differently than they are currently, as Matrix lands allow for commercial harvesting. The question is whether this process of identifying and managing old growth will happen at the Northwest Forest Plan level across all 17 forests, or on an individual forest basis.

For example, will a forest like the Siuslaw National Forest individually identify its old growth parcels, draw boundaries around them, and manage them differently? Or will this process be handled uniformly across the 17 national forests under the Northwest Forest Plan? That's the question being raised—whether the approach will be localized or managed through a comprehensive, regional plan for all 17 forests.

A: NOGA likely won't dictate whether units need to implement changes individually, in groups, or at a regional or ecological scale. This will likely be left to local and regional leadership to determine what's most efficient and effective.

If the Northwest Forest Plan effort were to stall, the recommendations that have been developed could still serve as a foundation or framework for determining the best path forward. Local leadership would then be tasked with figuring out how to move forward.

NOGA also doesn't force any forest to undergo a plan amendment or revision process to implement it. Instead, it relies on a collaborative, adaptive strategies approach, which potentially allows for more flexibility. However, the risk is that each collaborative could take a different approach, which might reduce the effectiveness of regional consistency.

The intent of NOGA is to encourage more efficient and effective management at scale. It would be counterproductive for each unit to do something different unless there's a strong ecological reason for variation. Regional leadership would likely determine the appropriate scale to ensure effectiveness, especially considering that this needs to work across 128 units nationally, requiring organizational efficiency in decision-making.

- **Q:** A similar question to what's been asked earlier: The understanding had been that the local Land Management Plan would take precedence over NOGA if it provided stronger protections for old growth. However, based on today's discussion, that seems incorrect. For example, the recommendations propose shifting to a tree-based focus on protections in dry forests. It was believed that this approach was stronger, but it's possible to argue that "trees, not stands" may not be considered stronger. If precedence is based on specificity rather than strength, then that concern would be addressed.

The question is: In the relationship between NOGA and local Land Management Plans, which takes precedence? Is it based on the level of specificity, where the plan with greater specificity for old growth protections takes precedence? Based on today's discussion, there seems to be no concern that the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment would not take precedence. It appears that it would.

A: The Northwest Forest Plan would take precedence over NOGA.

- **Q:** With concerns to terminology, specifically whether definitions in NOGA will carry forward into the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment. For example, the term "proactive stewardship" was used earlier in reference to managing advanced mature forests. If that term is used in the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment, will it automatically bring NOGA's definition of proactive stewardship into the amendment? This raises concerns, especially regarding the application of the term equally across both dry and moist forest conditions.

Q: Related to exceptions in NOGA for cutting old growth forests under certain circumstances, which seem to go beyond what is currently in the Northwest Forest Plan, particularly regarding exceptions for logging in Late Successional Reserves or older trees: these exceptions also seem to exceed the recommendations in the amendment, such as exceptions for incidental cutting or forest types that wouldn't benefit from proactive stewardship. The question is whether these more specific exceptions in NOGA would apply to the old growth in the Northwest Forest Plan's Late Successional Reserves.

A: Many comments were received, and they will need to be thoroughly reviewed and digested.

The comments touched on various topics, including exceptions, adaptive management strategies, and other aspects of NOGA. It's important to note that any changes in the final version of NOGA will add to the underlying plans rather than remove anything.

There was also a valuable flag regarding analytical needs, which is being acknowledged and will be addressed. This process exists for a reason, and the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment is critical. There are place-based needs and conditions being considered that require a different level of specificity than what NOGA can address at the national level. The timeline allows for the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment to follow NOGA, adjusting as necessary.

The work being done on the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment is essential, as it involves considering nuances that aren't possible to address at a national scale. This effort remains important and will continue to be so moving forward.

C: The question was not fully answered, but the FAC member does not need an immediate answer and would like to return to this topic at a future discussion.

- **C:** An observation and possible question: While it's unclear what the final NOGA will look like, it seems that the No Action Alternative in the Northwest Forest Plan, as implemented, is very likely to comply with NOGA as conceived. In terms of effects, there may not be as much of an issue because, under the current implementation, old growth is being protected where it's found in the Northwest Forest Plan area. Although the existing plan allows for harvesting in Matrix lands and salvage logging where trees die, this isn't happening extensively. Given this, the analytical conflict may not be as significant as initially thought. It might help to discuss how the "as implemented" approach aligns with NOGA once it's finalized, which could make the final EIS for the Northwest Forest Plan easier. Is this how you're seeing it as well? The "as implemented" part seems to make the situation fundamentally different from the original Northwest Forest Plan as written, which could have posed a greater conflict and more complex cumulative effects.
- **Q:** The question concerns the use of the term "deficient" in relation to existing plans, with the understanding that if the plans are found to be deficient, NOGA would take over. While some analysis has likely already occurred, more may be needed. The term "deficiency" is a value judgment, which makes it a problematic standard. The concern is whether the agency has fully thought through how individual units or regions will comply with NOGA's direction. What is the plan for implementing this? Is there funding available for it? Will this be addressed through a NEPA process, or will it be more of an administrative review with public and tribal engagement? How will the agency roll out this implementation once something is officially on the books?
- **A:** To clarify, when discussing whether the elements of the Northwest Forest Plan are deficient, the focus was specifically on the definitions of old growth. Nationally, when reviewing Land Management Plans, it became clear that not all plans provide a clear definition of old growth. Some simply reference it without offering a definition, while others might only use an age definition without addressing important characteristics or other elements. NOGA is advising that plans be reviewed to determine if the existing definitions are functional and operational. If they are not, the recommendation is to look at regional definitions or other sources to augment those definitions, ensuring they are meaningful. The goal is to establish a common definition of

old growth that can be consistently applied. That's the context behind the term "deficient" in this case.

- **C:** In reference to the question about next steps and implementation, both external comments and internal feedback made it clear that careful consideration is needed regarding expectations and how to move forward. The goal is to avoid overburdening the field with additional work, especially when the priority is the health of the nation's forests and ensuring resilience on the ground. This feedback is being taken into account as comments are evaluated and future steps are planned. There is a focus on the definitions used, particularly new terms in the lexicon, and how they impact implementation. The aim is to make things clearer, ensure consistency, and elevate old growth as a priority across the agency, without hindering the crucial work that needs to happen on the ground. All of these factors are being considered as the final version is developed.
- **C:** A couple of key points should be taken from this group. First, the tough questions are being asked because there is a desire for successful implementation on the ground and making a difference. If success isn't achieved, it puts forests, communities, and old growth at risk. The intensity comes from wanting to ensure that success.
Second, there is no disagreement about the intent. In the Northwest, there is strong support for conserving old growth. This process is about doing better, and there is agreement on that intent—it's the implementation process that raises concerns.
Third, the driving force behind these questions is a request to protect the process and the collaboration involved in the recommendations. If things don't align properly, it won't be settled internally but rather by a judge, and control over the intent may be lost. When focusing on modernizing forest plans, building consensus, and producing a product that everyone can be proud of, it's essential that the process isn't undermined by confusion or lack of alignment. If NOGA is meant to defer to the more specific plan, it should be made clear and firm. When processes like this get the intent right, other processes should be irrelevant. Clarifying this in the final product would help avoid risks related to inconsistencies and disconnects, which are likely to be adjudicated in court. More clarity in the final product could protect the extraordinary work of this group and move forward toward achieving the intended goals.

Closing Remarks

Cory Archer, Facilitator, True Wind Collaborative - Contractor for Udall Foundation

Jacque Buchanan, Northwest Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service

Meryl Harrell, Deputy Under Secretary, U.S. Forest Service

The facilitator recognized the Committee's progress on the first day and invited the DFO and Deputy Under Secretary to share closing remarks.

The DFO and the Deputy Under Secretary acknowledged all the Committee accomplished on the first day. Gratitude was expressed for the ability to receive feedback in real time. It is helpful to have an advisory Committee to provide the feedback and the Leadership continues to rely on the advice and counsel of the group.

Day 2 Welcome and Opening Remarks

Cory Archer, Facilitator, True Wind Collaborative - Contractor for Udall Foundation

Jacque Buchanan, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service

Shasta Ferranto, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Forest Service

Susan Jane Brown, FAC co-chair, FAC co-chair, Silvix Resources

Travis Joseph, FAC co-chair, American Forest Resource Council

The facilitator welcomed the group to Day 2 of the Federal Advisory Committee meeting and invited the Committee co-chairs and the Forest Service to reflect on Day 1 and provide opening remarks.

The co-chairs expressed gratitude for the discussions on Day 1 and looked forward to the day's agenda. The DFO appreciated the thoughts and comments shared, particularly regarding the objectives presented.

The Committee acknowledged the Forest Service's sharing of the timber harvest objective but cautioned that it does not fully align with the FAC's intent. A concern was raised that, while Alternative B is based on FAC recommendations, it was not written by the Committee; thus, the Forest Service should exercise caution in its presentation. Overall, the Committee expressed interest in exploring the leadership recommendations over the next day and a half.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Feedback Discussion

The facilitator opened the discussion by inviting each Committee member to indicate support for providing feedback on the Draft EIS. Previously, the Committee presented recommendations reflecting consensus by the group. At the Committee's next in-person meeting, held in December, there are two choices:

1. Committee members represent their own individual interests regarding the alternatives presented in the DEIS.
2. Verify the intent of the recommendations were captured, and with consensus provide reactions to alternatives presented in the DEIS.

The below summarizes the Committee members' responses regarding engagement with the Draft EIS and feedback to the Forest Service.

- The Committee emphasized the importance of reviewing all alternatives, not just Alternative B, as elements from other alternatives may be preferable. One member noted that feedback should not require full consensus, while others highlighted that individual comments could be submitted on behalf of their respective organizations. However, it is crucial for the Committee to review the DEIS collectively and support the consensus recommendations.
- Several members expressed concern that time constraints could hinder consensus-building. The Committee requested a 120-day public comment period following the DEIS release for three reasons: 1) to engage more constituents, 2) to preserve FAC energy for consensus on feedback

and developing aligned Leadership Commitments, and 3) to clarify the implications of NOGA on the NWFP.

- Through a thumbs-up temperature check, the Committee unanimously agreed to provide consensus feedback on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Additional discussion followed regarding the proposed timeline, NOGA, and DEIS.

Discussion/Question

Q = Question, A = Answer, C = Comment

- **Q:** Will Tribes get to preview the DEIS before the public?
A: Yes, the Forest Service will release dates for Tribal engagement prior to the public release. This will include a direct government-to-government briefing.
- **Q:** When will the Committee engage with the draft?
A: The Committee will preview the draft a few days before the public release.
C: A committee member reiterated the request for a full 120 days to comment, as the final NOGA will not be available during the proposed 90-day comment period.
- **Q:** Could the Forest Service provide more information about the No Action alternative?
A: The No Action alternative reflects the current situation in the forests and aims to remain true to ongoing implementation.
- **Q:** If the NWFP as written is a guiding document that should be followed, how does "implemented" versus "written" play out in NEPA?
A: Plans are not actual projects with decisions that result in on-the-ground impacts; these types of decisions arise when a project occurs on the land. Plans do not compel action; projects do. The status quo represents the No Action alternative under NEPA.
C: Legal compliance indicates a narrative problem, as only 60% of timber yield is ever realized from the baseline.
A: Regarding legal and narrative concerns, both are critically important. The core of the narrative involves a trust issue. In the case of the draft EIS, the belief is that the stated number is achievable, and there is a desire to shape the narrative to build that trust.
- **Q:** As NOGA lands, how will it amend the NWFP? How does the NWFP amendment overlay?
A: If NOGA is adopted, it will represent the current NWFP. The Forest Service hopes that the revised NWFP will be approved closely enough that further revisions are unnecessary. The ideal scenario involves NOGA coming first, followed by the NWFP amendment as the landscape-scale strategy for management.

Developing Leadership Commitment Recommendations

The facilitator oriented the group around the Leadership Commitment recommendation process and the current document shared with the Committee

(https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1211575.pdf)

As proposed, there are two pathways:

- 1) Shorter timeframe including actions the regions can commit to doing now, in the short term. These recommendations for actions are not contingent on the outcome of the final NWFP amendment. These will be the focus of the Committee through the fall and winter, and
- 2) Longer timeframe, including another possible set of Committee recommendations to be delivered with the Final EIS. These recommendations are likely things that are contingent on knowing what is in the final amendment.

The Designated Federal Official elaborated on the intent of the leadership commitment letter, which can in part be informed by FAC recommendations. The letter will be signed individually by the Regional Foresters of both Regions 5 and 6. The commitment might not apply across all 18 forest units but will be a commitment to initiation on the included management changes.

Additional discussion followed regarding the shift to Leadership Commitments.

Discussion/Question

Q = Question, A = Answer, C = Comment

- **Q:** What resources does the Forest Service have to implement Leadership Commitments?
A: The shortcoming of the budget at the Forest Service right now is very real. Speaking of Region 6, there is an incredible number of employees, more than the agency has had in a long time. The priorities the FAC are identifying are the agencies priorities.
- **Q:** Can the FAC make recommendations to Congress on funding?
A: Similar to the 2012 Planning Rule FAC, the members of the FAC can visit Congressional members on their own, but the effort would be adjacent to, and not directly supported by the Forest Service.

The Committee indicated preference for Leadership Commitments recommendations to be developed by consensus.

Survey & Manage

The Committee began by addressing the big picture issue of Survey and Manage. A member requested an overview from the Forest Service regarding what Survey and Manage entails, how it is written and implemented, and the agency's trajectory toward Species of Conservation Concern (SCC).

Forest Service staff explained the current situation: most forest units operate under plans written in 1982. Survey and Manage was introduced by the Northwest Forest Plan in 1994, and the concept of SCC emerged from a 2012 planning rule change. Transitioning to SCC and documenting eligibility criteria for every species involves significant analytical effort, requiring extensive resources and detailed requirements. The Forest Service is required to do this during a plan revision.

The Committee urged the Forest Service to take meaningful action immediately, noting that the 2012 Planning Rule lacks a timeline for identifying SCC. More collaboration is essential to progress; eliminating Survey and Manage cannot occur without meaningful advances toward SCC.

Another Committee member pointed out that the annual status review of the red tree vole poses the biggest roadblock to Survey and Manage.

Tribal Inclusion

The Committee discussed harvest access issues for Tribal partners, specifically the example of Yakama Nation's rights to huckleberry harvesting through reserved treaty rights and the encroachment of commercial permitting on their access. There has been inadequate management of commercial huckleberry harvesting on the Gifford Pinchot. With unknown harvest quantities and insufficient enforcement of violators infringing on land reserved for Tribal harvest, this ongoing issue detrimentally affects Tribal members' ability to source cultural foods.

The Regional Forester for Region 6 committed to creating solutions for commercial permitting to ensure the Yakama Nation and other Tribes with varying harvest concerns can access its cultural food sources.

Another Committee member addressed temporary closures, mentioning that some areas currently have two-week closures for Tribal gathering and cultural ceremonies. Seasonal variations and ground conditions complicate predictions for optimal closure times and meaningful enforcement for Tribal members.

The Regional Forester for Region 6 also committed to initiating a process to address the temporary closure issue.

A Committee member requested updates on these issues at every upcoming in-person FAC meeting. Another member asked the Forest Service to expand its commercial permitting analysis to other forests. Beyond huckleberries, other non-timber special forest products are being harvested unsustainably through commercial permitting.

Monitoring & Research

The Committee briefly touched on monitoring and research, capturing line edits and minor grammar changes directly in the leadership commitment ideas document. Themes that pair with other parts of the document were identified, and some time was spent detailing the section on modernizing social and economic monitoring. The Committee intends to continue to identify opportunities that support monitoring to amplify capacity of nature resource groups and Tribal partnerships, and including the Pacific Northwest research station.

Workforce and Contracting

During the discussion on workforce and contracting, the DFO noted that the Forest Service is transferring administrative sites to address workforce needs. For example, the Umpqua Forest is allowing Tribes to take over an administrative site, a model that could be applied to other forests. The Forest Service can only sell administrative sites, and this initiative is agency-wide, with a commitment to implement it in FY2025 within the NWFP area.

A Committee member highlighted the need to consider county governments and non-profits as well. Another member proposed a principle granting Tribes the first right of refusal when the Forest Service offloads administrative lands.

The Committee made direct edits to the leadership commitment document, with further follow-up planned.

Contract Accessibility

The Committee discussed contract accessibility related to business and stewardship contracts, highlighting complexities in contract packaging and bidding processes. The discussion identified existing barriers and processes, noting provisions for minority- and women-owned businesses that typically operate at regional and national levels. A Committee member emphasized the need to focus on small private operators (fewer than 100 employees) and to integrate local voices more effectively in field conversations.

Another member pointed out that the complexity of contracting poses challenges for smaller firms and organizations. A proposed solution was for the Forest Service to hold workshops with small business development centers, banks, and other service providers to offer assistance.

It was noted that the issue primarily concerns non-timber contracts, as timber contracting operates well. The discussion highlighted that most competitive service contracts tend to be awarded to organizations in the Rogue Valley.

The DFO suggested forming a small working group to better understand the challenges of service contract accessibility, committing to initiate this by January 2025.

Closing Remarks

Cory Archer, Facilitator, True Wind Collaborative - Contractor for Udall Foundation

Jacque Buchanan, Northwest Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service

Susan Jane Brown, FAC co-chair, Silvix Resources

Travis Joseph, FAC co-chair, American Forest Resource Council

The facilitator recognized the Committee's progress on Leadership Commitments and invited the DFO and FAC co-chairs to share closing remarks.

The co-chairs expressed appreciations for the discussion and thanked the Forest Service for their dialogue and direction on the commitments.

The DFO acknowledged the process of moving down the path of work and appreciates the commitment of the FAC in the process.

Day 3 Welcome and Opening Remarks

Cory Archer, Facilitator, True Wind Collaborative - Contractor for Udall Foundation

Jacque Buchanan, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service

Shasta Ferranto, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Forest Service

Susan Jane Brown, FAC co-chair, FAC co-chair, Silvix Resources

Travis Joseph, FAC co-chair, American Forest Resource Council

The facilitator welcomed the group to Day 3 and turned the floor over to the DFO to provide an update.

The DFO thanked everyone for the previous discussions. It was noted that the timber harvest objective numbers shared did not align with the FAC's recommendations, leading the Committee to a decision. Two options were presented: maintain the DEIS release date of October 11, which would not allow time to re-analyze the timber harvest figures or take 3-4 weeks to validate and adjust the figures to ensure the Proposed Action aligned with the Committee's intent before releasing the DEIS.

The FAC discussed these options, with several members advocating for the DEIS delay to build trust with communities. It was emphasized that releasing inaccurate numbers would undermine that trust. The Committee favored adjusting the timeline to ensure the accuracy of the assumptions behind the objective.

Many members expressed appreciation to the Regional Foresters for acknowledging the mistake and proposing solutions. One member highlighted the importance of analyzing how changes in the numbers could impact other areas and analyses.

Discussion/Question

Q = Question, A = Answer, C = Comment

- **Q:** What are the faulty assumptions that led to the incorrect timber volume assumption numbers?
A: The analysis shortcomings stem from several issues, including concerns about the objectives to treat one tenth of plantations in the first decade and one third of dry forests over 15 years, raising doubts about the true capacity to achieve these goals. Additionally, the analysis did not account for the systemic shifts these recommendations imply, focusing primarily on the status quo. While there is no ill intent, the need for a different analytical approach is clear, as current calculations do not align with ongoing practices. Furthermore, salvage operations were not included in the analysis.
- **Q:** What percentage was one tenth of plantation harvest per decade?
A: The recommendation was followed as written; basis and anchors were correct but overlaid incorrect silvicultural trajectory in the analysis.
- **Q:** What about critical habitat in plantations, does this impact the analysis?

A: There is little concern about critical habitats in moist forests, as these areas are already reserved within the Matrix. The uncertainty lies in dry forests, particularly regarding the recommendation to treat LSR and Matrix areas similarly. Conducting this level of analysis is challenging because current on-the-ground practices do not support it.

- **Q:** Having not practiced regeneration harvests for decades, does the Forest Service have the ability and capacities to model out this scenario lacking the experience and practice? Could the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) provide numbers for variable retention harvest?

A: Yes, the Forest Service has skilled silviculturists on the team. Looping in external validation will be a good check moving forward.

- **Q:** How is the Forest Service using assumptions where they are being asked to apply new practices?

A: Examples outside the Northwest Forest Plan area can serve as models. Alternative C proposes less active management and emphasizes using prescribed fire to prepare for cultural burning. Responding to natural ignitions for beneficial outcomes requires making challenging assumptions.

- **Q:** There are trickle out effects, how is this analysis going to change much in the economics effect analysis?

A: There will be an impact beyond economics, but also ecological.

The Committee chairs expressed gratitude to the Forest Service for being honest and transparent with the Committee. Election timing is not ideal, but it is more important to build credibility with the public and get the analysis right. While numbers matter, the Forest Service was encouraged to ensure the objectives are in line with the best available science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), ensuring owl recovery in the dry forest, and restoring ecological integrity to the lands. The FAC's recommendations are intended to produce this result, and the numbers come secondary.

Managed Wildfire Risks

The facilitator prompted a return to discussing [Leadership Commitments recommendation ideas](#).

The Regional Forester for Region 5 emphasized that managed wildfire is increasingly important for the Forest Service. Efforts are ongoing to improve communication about managing naturally ignited fires. The Regional Forester is eager to understand where the FAC believes effective change is possible.

A Committee member initiated a discussion about Alternative D in the DEIS, which includes managed fire within specific parameters. The Forest Service referenced other units, such as the Sierra and Sequoia, to draft this language. The goal is to gather public feedback to facilitate further analysis between the draft and final versions.

Education remains a significant barrier to public perception of naturally ignited fires and fire management. Several Committee members highlighted the need to shift public perception before major fire events, stressing that communication is vital during active fires. Opportunities exist to leverage partnerships among agencies, non-profits, educational institutions, and municipalities.

A Committee member proposed a stakeholder collaborative approach to fire planning and management, engaging research stations and managers to develop spatial planning processes and conduct annual

discussions with key stakeholders and elected officials. Transparency through disclosure and collaboration will help build trust. The leadership commitment would involve developing a framework applicable across the NWFP region, with support from cooperators.

The Regional Foresters expressed interest in creating this framework and extending the timeline for implementation beyond best practices. In managing wildfire on the Deschutes National Forest, public education and weather evaluation are critical components for smoke mitigation.

While the Deschutes burn was successful, no level of smoke is healthy. Coordinated messaging, public engagement, and transparency about ongoing actions are essential. Additional comments from Committee members included the need for the Forest Service to avoid using managed fire in all forests, particularly moist Douglas fir and hemlock forests.

The Regional Foresters committed to developing a framework for collaborative fire planning and management, recognizing its importance to the agency.

Next Steps

The Committee reviewed next steps and outlined milestones beyond the December in-person meeting.

The Committee discussed the timeline for the DEIS and whether the Committee will receive a more in-depth preview.

The DFO confirmed that Laurel Harkness is officially on the FAC and the Forest Service obtaining information regarding rechartering and nominations from the Chief's office, with assistance from the Deputy Under Secretary. The Forest Service clarified that the re-chartering and nominations are separate; the charter expires in December, while nominations expire in June 2025.

Leadership Commitments recommendations do not need to be plan components, and a voting to finalize recommendations can take place in batches. The Committee will plan to vote on some recommendations at the next in person meeting in December. In the meantime, the Committee will convene in small ad hoc working groups to further refine recommendation ideas.

The next in-person meeting will likely be in Bellingham, WA.

A FAC member highlighted the need for public and Tribal engagement on the DEIS and suggested including this in the briefings. The facilitator confirmed that plans for engagement are already underway. Another member requested to emphasize recreation in the recommendations and raised concerns about timber-related recommendations, questioning what the FAC needs to do to facilitate this in Leadership Commitments. One followed up on incorporating Indigenous knowledge and monitoring components, including triggers and thresholds for adaptive management.

Closing Remarks

The DFO and co-chairs closed the meeting. FAC members expressed anticipation for moving forward with Leadership Commitments, noting that the outlined timeline, while substantial, is reasonable. The DEIS is expected to be a significant document, and there is eagerness to see the work translated into the amendment.

The group emphasized the importance of maintaining momentum, along with a call to quickly finalize dates to preserve engagement opportunities.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

Glossary/Acronyms

AMA	Adaptive Management Area
CWPP	Collaborative Community Wildfire Protection Plans
DFO	Designated Federal Official
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FAC	Federal Advisory Committee
LSR	Late-Successional Reserve
LUA	Land Use Allocations
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOGA	National Old Growth Amendment
NWFP	Northwest Forest Plan
PPSG	Pacific Planning Service Group
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service

APPENDIX B

Attendance

Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) Attendees:

FAC Member	Title	Location	Committee Category	Seat
Angela Sondenaar, PhD*	Certified Senior Ecologist, Nez Perce Tribe	Idaho	Science	Terrestrial Wildlife Ecology
Ann House, JD	Staff Attorney, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe Environmental and Natural Resources Department	Washington	Government	American Indian Tribes
Betsy Robblee	Conservation and Advocacy Director, The Mountaineers	Washington	Organization	Recreation Organizations
Daniel Reid Sarna-Wojcicki, PhD*	Postdoctoral Researcher, UC Berkeley	California	Science	Adaptive Management and Planning
Elaine Harvey, PhD	Environmental Coordinator, Yakama Nation	Washington	Science	Aquatic and Riparian Ecosystems and Species
Heidi Huber-Stearns, PhD	Director, Ecosystem Workforce Program, Institute for a Sustainable Environment, University of Oregon	Oregon	Science	Social Science
Jerry Franklin, PhD	Professor Emeritus, School of Environmental and Forest Science, University of Washington	Oregon	Science	Forest Ecology
<i>Jose Linares</i>	<i>District Manager (Retired), Bureau of Land Management, Northwest Oregon District and Board Member, Straub Outdoors</i>	<i>Oregon</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Underserved Communities Outreach Organizations</i>
Karen Hans	Good Neighbor Authority Program, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	Oregon	Government	State Governments

Laura Osiadacz*	Kittitas County Commissioner	Washington	Government	County Governments
Laurel Harkness	Coalition Director, Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition	California	Organization	Local Conservation Organization
Lindsay Warness	Western Regional Manager, Forest Resource Association	Oregon	Organization	Forest Products Industry
Meg Krawchuk, PhD*	Associate Professor of Landscape Fire, Ecology, and Conservation Science, College of Forestry, Oregon State University	Oregon	Science	Fire Ecology
Mike Anderson, JD	Senior Policy Analyst, The Wilderness Society	Washington	Organization	Wildlife Organizations
Nicholas Goulette	Executive Director, Watershed Research and Training Center	California	Organization	Watershed Organizations
<i>Robert "Bobby" Brunoe</i>	Secretary Treasurer/CEO, Confederate Tribes of Warm Springs	Oregon	Science	Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge
Ryan Haugo, PhD	Director of Conservation Science, The Nature Conservancy	Oregon	Science	Climate Change
<i>Ryan Miller</i>	<i>Director of Treaty Rights and Government Affairs, Tulalip Tribes</i>	<i>Washington</i>	<i>Government</i>	<i>American Indian Tribes</i>
Ryan Reed	Co-founder and Executive Director, Fire Generation Collaborative and Wildland Firefighter	California	Public	Member of the Affected Public at Large
Susan Jane Brown, JD	Principal, Silvix Resources	Oregon	Organization	Forest Collaborative Groups
Travis Joseph	President/CEO, American Forest Resource Council	Oregon	Organization	Forest Products Industry

Key: *Not in attendance* | *Virtual attendance

Planning Team Attendees

Name	Title/Affiliation
Candice Magbag Plendl	Facilitation Team, True Wind Collaborative - Contractor for Udall Foundation
Cory Archer	Facilitator, True Wind Collaborative - Contractor for Udall Foundation
Delaney Caslow	Resource Assistant PPSG, U.S. Forest Service
Don Yasuda	U.S. Forest Service
Jacque Buchanan	Northwest Regional Forester Region 6, U.S. Forest Service
Jennifer Eberlien	Southwest Regional Forester Region 5, U.S. Forest Service
Linda Walker	Ecosystem Management Coordination Director, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service
Meryl Harrell	Deputy Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Michele Miranda	U.S. Forest Service
Shannon Browne	Facilitation Team, True Wind Collaborative - Contractor for Udall Foundation
Shasta Ferranto	U.S. Forest Service

Public Comment

Name	Affiliation
Timothy Ingalsbee	Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology
Gabriel Howe	Siskiyou Mountain Club
Molly Whitney	Cascade Forest Conservancy
Tom Lannen	Skamania County Commissioner
Anjolene Price	Hampton Lumber
Garret Stump	Wilkins, Kaiser, and Olsen Sawmill
Jon Paul Anderson	Wilkins, Kaiser, and Olsen Sawmill
Mary Repar	Public
James Aven	Public

Co-Chair Verification

 11.7.24

Susan Jane Brown

 11/7/24

Travis Joseph