



How to Comment

Northwest Forest Plan Amendment

Commenting on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The USDA Forest Service welcomes engagement throughout the amendment process. The comment period is your opportunity in the process to offer input, to comment on the analysis, and to suggest alternative ways for the Forest Service to accomplish what is proposed.

Comments submitted during the official comment period give parties standing to participate in the pre-decisional administrative review process (36 CFR 219, Subpart B) – also known as the objection process - before a Record of Decision is signed. All comments received during formal comment periods become part of the public record, including commenters' names and affiliation. Anonymous comments and comments submitted after the close of the designated comment period will not provide the commenter standing to object.

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Electronic comments are preferred. Comments must be postmarked or received electronically no later than 120 days from when the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is published in the Federal Register, currently scheduled for November 15, 2024.

The Forest Service will make comments publicly available on the website via a public reading room. This will allow the public to read or download any letters submitted, which includes the commenter's name and affiliation. The agency may withhold letters containing proprietary information, sensitive cultural or habitat locations, profanity, etc. All letters, including those not posted, will be considered and included as part of the project record. To view the Northwest Forest Plan public reading room, visit <https://shorturl.at/5AQyK>.

Disclaimer: All contact information is optional; however, anonymous comments will not provide standing to object.

Visit the project page at <https://shorturl.at/o7fyS> to comment, view project documents and learn more about the proposed amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan!

How to Comment on the proposed amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan

1. Read the proposed amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement

- Visit the agency's website <https://shorturl.at/ToncV> to find information on the proposed amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the link to comment online or the address to send written comments.
- Read through the project documents to fully understand its scope and potential environmental impacts.

2. Understand the Timeline

- Check the comment period deadline.
- Make sure to submit your comment before the deadline closes.

3. Prepare Your Comment

- Introduce yourself and explain your interest in the project (e.g., local resident, environmental advocate, industry spokesperson, avid outdoorsperson, kayaker, etc.).
- Identify specific areas of concern or support (e.g., environmental impact, wildlife, community effects).
- Stay within the scope of the proposal—make sure your comment addresses the specific project under review and its potential impacts. Comments that focus on issues outside the project's scope (such as unrelated policies or actions) are less likely to be considered.
- Provide evidence or reasoning for your concerns or support—cite data, studies, or personal observations to strengthen your comment.

4. Submit Your Comment

- Online [Preferred Method]: Use the provided <https://shorturl.at/15zkE>. This is the only format for submitting electronic comments, **emailed comments will not be accepted**. Note that there is a 24-hour delay before your comment appears in the public reading room, please only submit your comment once.
- Mail: Send a written letter to:
Comments on proposed NWFP amendment
USDA Forest Service
1220 SW 3rd Ave. Ste. G015
Portland, OR, 97204

5. Stay Engaged

- Follow the project's progression and engage further if desired during public meetings or subsequent phases.

Helpful Tips

- Be specific and clear and indicate what page numbers of Draft Environmental Impact Statement you are referring to, where possible. Focus on points directly related to the project's potential impacts.
- Summarize your primary concerns.
- Stay in scope. Comments unrelated to the proposal will not be considered, so keep your feedback relevant to the project at hand.
- Support with facts. Back up your comments with data or personal experience.
- Remain respectful. Well-reasoned comments are more likely to influence decision-makers.

How to write useful comments

Support with Specific Suggestion

"I support the proposed [ACTION OR STRATEGY] to address [ISSUE OR CONCERN] in this region. [EXPLANATION OF WHY THIS ACTION IS BENEFICIAL]. However, I recommend including [ADDITIONAL ACTION OR PLAN] to ensure *[EXPECTED OUTCOME OR IMPROVEMENT]."

Disagreement with Proposed Measures

"I disagree with the proposed [ACTION OR STRATEGY] for addressing [ISSUE OR IMPACT]. While [CURRENT STRATEGY] is important, it may not fully address [SPECIFIC CONCERN OR GAP]. I suggest incorporating [ADDITIONAL STRATEGY OR IMPROVEMENT] to better protect *[RESOURCE OR OUTCOME]."

Support with Justification

"The project's focus on [ACTION OR STRATEGY] seems aligned with [ECONOMIC OR ENVIRONMENTAL GOAL]. [EXPLANATION OF HOW THE ACTION SUPPORTS THIS GOAL]. By implementing [SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENT OR ADDITIONAL STRATEGY], the project could benefit both [GROUP OR COMMUNITY] and [ENVIRONMENTAL OR ECONOMIC OUTCOME]."

Concern and Suggestion for Improvement

"While I appreciate that the project acknowledges [ISSUE OR CONCERN], I am concerned that it does not fully integrate [MISSING COMPONENT OR STRATEGY]. [EXPLANATION OF WHY THE COMPONENT OR STRATEGY IS IMPORTANT]. I suggest [ACTION TO INCORPORATE OR IMPROVE THE PLAN] to address this aspect effectively."

Example of comments that are not useful for the process

Vague and Unclear

"You need to stop all [ACTION OR STRATEGY]—it's too [NEGATIVE EMOTION OR OUTCOME]!"

- * This comment is unclear and does not provide any evidence or alternatives to address [ISSUE OR CONCERN], making it difficult for decision-makers to respond meaningfully.

Generalized and Lacking Specificity

"You should [ACTION OR STRATEGY] more. It's important and should be included."

- * This comment is vague and lacks specificity. While it highlights an important issue, it does not provide clear examples or recommendations on how [ACTION OR STRATEGY] could be better integrated into the project, making it less actionable.

Unrelated Complaint

"[ISSUE OR CONCERN] doesn't matter as much as [UNRELATED ISSUE]. Stop all [ACTION OR STRATEGY]!"

- * This comment dismisses [ISSUE OR CONCERN] entirely without offering data or alternatives, making it less constructive. It also doesn't acknowledge the project's focus on [BALANCED GOAL OR OUTCOME].

What's Next?

Following the comment period, the Forest Service will analyze and respond to public comments from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The input received during this comment period will inform the final Environmental Impact Statement. People who have standing as an objector and wish to file a formal objection will have 60 days to submit an objection to the Forest Service's proposed decision. This administrative challenge to the draft decision provides an additional opportunity for you to work with the Forest Service to resolve any outstanding issues with the plan prior to a final decision. If the proposed amendment is approved, dialogue on local implementation and monitoring will continue well into the future. For more information visit the Citizens Guide to Forest Planning available at <https://shorturl.at/pfcEv>.

For questions, please contact:

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1220 SW 3rd Ave. Ste. G015 Portland, OR, 97204

For more information about the proposed amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan, including how to comment, scan the QR code or visit: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r6/nwfp

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