



# Northwest Forest Plan Amendment - Forest Stewardship & Ecosystem Resilience

## Key Highlights

- Promotes management activities that are consistent with improving ecological integrity and supplying habitat to maintain biodiversity, distinguishing between appropriate conditions and management in moist vs. dry forest stands.
- Facilitates a predictable supply of timber and non-timber resources to support community economic sustainability while maintaining ecological values.
- Reduces the risk of loss from wildfire and other disturbances, and promotes adaptation to changing environmental conditions.
- Promotes the retention of mature and old-growth forests across the landscape, adding conservation measures to matrix lands.
- Expands the window to address moist forest restoration needs in younger (mostly planted) stands within Late Successional Reserves.
- Promotes opportunities for Tribal co-stewardship and cultural use.

## Forest Stewardship Goals

The proposed amendment to the land management plans in the Northwest Forest Plan area emphasizes forest stewardship strategies tailored to the unique needs of moist and dry forests.

Dry vs. moist forest vegetation would be classified at the stand scale, and decisions about management needs would be informed by conditions at multiple scales. Adaptive Management Areas would be managed based on Matrix plan content, except for those portions that are also designated Late Successional Reserve.

## Dry Forest Stewardship

Common plan direction is proposed for both Matrix and Late Successional Reserves for dry forest stands.

- Encourages restoration of ecosystems to address wildfire, drought, and other environmental stressors and enhance ecological integrity.
- Promotes heterogeneity, with an emphasis on low-density stands with clumps of large, old trees and open forest conditions.
- Retains all trees older than 150 years, with exceptions for Tribal co-stewardship and cultural uses, restoration of unique ecosystems, and to reduce wildfire risks to communities and infrastructure.



## Moist Forest Stewardship

**Moist Matrix lands:** Under current direction, all moist matrix forest stands are equally eligible for vegetation treatment. The proposed amendment adds different direction based on stand origin date.

- Timber production is the continued emphasis in stands established after 1905 to support a predictable supply of timber and community economic sustainability.
- A new emphasis is proposed on retention of the remaining mature and old-growth forest.
  - » Stands originating before 1825 would be retained.
  - » Stands originating between 1825 and 1905 would see limited restoration activity, and otherwise would be left to mature into old-growth forest.
  - » Stand origin date is used rather than stand age to ensure that the original intent of the NWFP is met and forests in matrix continue to provide a timber supply for the nation and to benefit local and regional economies.

### Moist Late Successional Reserves:

- Conservation is the continued focus in Late Successional Reserves to provide habitat for forest-dependent species, including especially those dependent on mature- and old-growth forest conditions.
- A proposed increase in the age of stands eligible for treatment, from 80 years to 120 years, expands the window to address remaining restoration needs in younger stands (i.e., plantations or certain high-density natural regeneration stands) that are not on a trajectory to develop mature and old-growth conditions without forest management.
- Limited exceptions for timber harvest in stands older than 120 years in Late Successional Reserves include:
  - » To provide for tribal co-stewardship and cultural use.
  - » To reduce wildfire risk to communities.

## Spotlight on Alternatives

### Alternative B (Proposed Action):

- Focuses on retaining older trees in dry forest and old stands in moist forest, while also promoting stand heterogeneity and structural diversity.
- Supports proactive restoration to mitigate wildfire risk.

### Alternative C:

- Offers less mechanical treatment in dry forests.
- Maintains current timber harvest age restrictions.

### Alternative D:

- Enhances flexibility for wildfire risk reduction in dry forests by extending timber harvest restrictions to trees established before 1850, emphasizing the reversal of long-term fire exclusion in dry forests.

## Forest Stewardship Activity Priorities and Constraints

Feature	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Dry Forest	Retain trees >150 years	Retain trees >150 years	Retain trees established before 1850
Moist Forest LSRs	Retain stands >120 years	Retain stands >80 years	Retain stands >120 years
Moist Forest Matrix	No harvest in stands pre-1825 with exceptions; restoration for 1825–1905	No harvest in stands pre-1825 (with no exceptions); restoration for 1825–1905	Similar to B
Fire Resilience Focus	Moderate	Lower	Higher

## Learn More About Forest Stewardship in the DEIS

To delve deeper into forest stewardship under the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment, focus on these sections of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement:

### 1. Volume 1: Chapter 3 – Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

- » Detailed analysis of mature and old-growth conservation strategies.
- » Effects of wildfire resilience measures on forest ecosystems.

### 2. Volume 2: Appendix A1 – Proposed Action

- » Specific objectives and standards for forest stewardship, including dry and moist forest management.
- » Tribal co-stewardship and Indigenous Knowledge.

### 3. Volume 2: Appendix B – Changes to Existing Plan Components

- » Summary of modifications to land-use allocations for forest stewardship.

### 4. Volume 2: Appendix E – Environmental Justice Assessment

- » Insights into how forest stewardship affects local communities and tribal rights.

## How to Stay Involved

Your feedback is crucial. Submit comments or questions about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement by visiting: [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r6/nwfp](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r6/nwfp)