



## Northwest Forest Plan Amendment: Why Now? The Case for New Management Direction

### The Changing Landscape

Over the last three decades, significant changes have shaped the forests and communities of the Northwest:

The Northwest Forest Plan was originally developed in 1994 to balance the need to protect old-growth forests and support economic stability. Monitoring since has shown the urgent need for updates to address today's challenges.

**Increased Wildfire Risks:** Larger, more severe wildfires threaten communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems. These fires have also reduced the amount of quality habitat available for fish, wildlife, and other species.

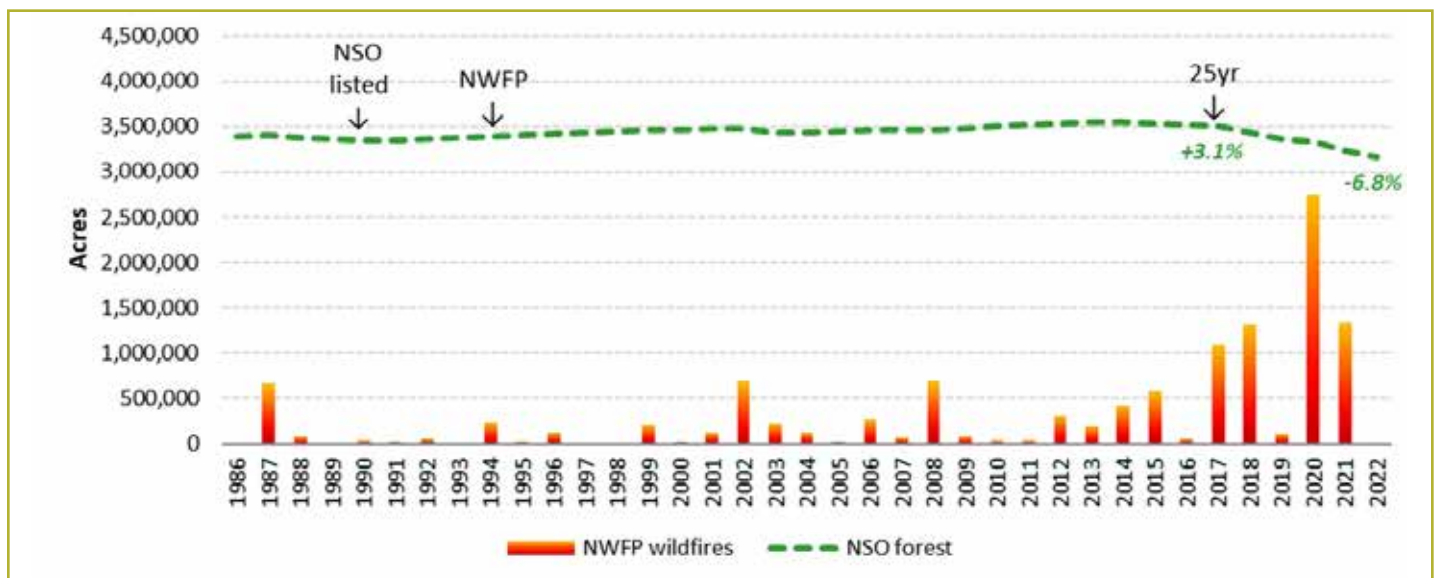
**Community Challenges:** Rural communities are struggling and need sustainable economic opportunities tied to forest management.



### Key Focus Areas:

- Enhance fire resistance and resilience to protect forests and communities.
- Promote economic opportunities for sustainable timber and workforce growth.
- Conserve habitat for fish, wildlife, and other species.
- Strengthen the foundation of forest stewardship with modern strategies.
- Include Tribes during forest planning.

### Recent decreases in Northern Spotted Owl habitat (mature & old growth forest)



## Why Update Management Direction Now?

### Fire Resilience

- **The Need:** Catastrophic wildfires threaten communities, ecosystems, and other important resources.
- **The Plan:** Support restoration strategies, such as mechanical thinning and prescribed burns, to better protect forests and communities.

### Economic Opportunities

- **The Need:** Communities require reliable job opportunities to sustain local economies.
- **The Plan:** Align workforce training with restoration needs and create more job opportunities in forest management.

### Forest Stewardship

- **The Need:** Ecosystems face threats from wildfires and other stressors.
- **The Plan:** Use modern ecological forestry to restore ecosystems while retaining mature and old growth conditions.

### Tribal Inclusion

- **The Need:** Tribal communities have strong connections to landscapes and resources within the Northwest Forest Plan area.
- **The Plan:** Support Tribal needs through co-stewardship and better fulfillment of general trust responsibilities.



## What Will the Amendment Achieve?

**Reduce Wildfire Impacts:** Mitigate the risks of severe wildfires through proactive management and restoration.

**Support Communities:** Provide sustainable resources and economic growth for rural communities and enhanced co-stewardship with Tribes.

**Modernize Forest Management:** Use the best available science to adapt to changing conditions.

## What's Next?

The Forest Service is engaging with the public and stakeholders to craft an amendment that reflects today's realities while keeping the best aspects of the original Northwest Forest Plan.

Opportunities for public input will ensure the amendment is responsive to the needs of communities.



## Get Involved

To learn more or participate in the amendment process scan the QR code, or visit: [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r6/nwfp](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r6/nwfp).  
Email: [SM.FS.NWFPquestion@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FS.NWFPquestion@usda.gov)



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