



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Pacific Northwest Region | Pacific Southwest Region | Pacific Planning Service Group

Northwest Forest Plan Proposed Amendment Themes

A Plan for Resilient Forests and Sustainable Communities

For more than 30 years, the Northwest Forest Plan has been the foundation for conservation and community support in Northern California, Oregon, and Washington. Initially designed to balance environmental and economic needs, including habitat protection for the Northern Spotted Owl, the Northwest Forest Plan now requires updates to address new challenges and opportunities.

The proposed amendment focuses on **Fire Resilience**, **Economic Opportunities**, and **Forest Stewardship**—ensuring forests remain healthy while supporting the communities that rely on them

Key Themes of the Amendment

Fire Resilience

Recognizing the increasing threat of severe wildfires, the proposed amendment prioritizes proactive fire management to protect communities and forests.

- **Strategic Planning for Wildfire Resilience:** Introduces Community Wildfire Protection Zones for fire management, emphasizing community safety and risk reduction.
- **Ecosystem Restoration:** Supports the reintroduction of fire to maintain fire-adapted ecosystems, sustain meadows, and restore other historically-occurring ecosystems where they've been encroached.
- **Collaboration with Communities:** Emphasizes use and development of local and regional wildfire protection plans, while adding interim tactics to safeguard critical infrastructure.

Economic Opportunities

The amendment seeks to ensure forests contribute to sustainable economic growth for communities across the Northwest Forest Plan area:

- **Predictable Timber Harvest:** Enhances predictability in timber supply while balancing conservation needs.
- **Job Creation through Restoration:** Supports workforce development in forest management, emphasizing youth training and career opportunities.
- **Community Collaboration:** Encourages local businesses, Tribes, and underserved communities to participate in contracts and agreements for restoration projects.
- **Recreation and Tourism:** Recognizes the economic importance of outdoor recreation, which supports local businesses and fosters community well-being.

Forest Stewardship

The proposed amendment enhances forest stewardship through the use of ecological forestry, including:

- **Tailored Management for Dry and Moist Ecosystems:** Differentiates strategies for drier, fire-prone forests and wetter fire-infrequent forests, promoting healthy and resilient.
- **Sustainable Forestry Practices:** Combines restoration and timber harvest activities to maintain ecological health and economic output.
- **Integrated Knowledge and Innovation:** Utilizes modern forestry methods to improve resilience while preserving essential ecosystem services.
- **Retaining Mature and Old-Growth Forest Conditions:** Expands conservation efforts across all land-use allocations, including Matrix lands.

Themes Interwoven Across the Amendment

Tribal Inclusion

The amendment provides opportunities for collaboration with Tribes to integrate cultural practices, such as burning and gathering, into forest management. The focus is on including Tribes in forest planning and implementation to achieve common goals.

Adapting to Changing Conditions

Addressing evolving environmental factors, the amendment promotes forest resilience to disturbances such as drought, pests, and shifting weather patterns.

Why These Themes Matter

- **Fire Resilience:** Mitigates risks to communities, forests, and critical infrastructure, reducing the impact of severe wildfires.
- **Economic Opportunities:** Supports community livelihoods by providing sustainable timber resources, restoration jobs, and workforce training.
- **Forest Stewardship:** Ensures forests remain healthy and productive for future generations and for wildlife.



Next Steps & Public Engagement

The Forest Service is committed to ongoing public collaboration. Opportunities for comments, webinars, and in-person meetings will ensure all voices are heard in shaping the future of the Northwest Forest Plan.



For more information or to participate, scan the QR code, or visit: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r6/nwfp
Email: SM.FS.NWFPquestion@usda.gov

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