



SPEAK UP FOR OLD-GROWTH FORESTS

NORTHWEST FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT

As we've previously mentioned, the Biden Administration has started a process to update the Northwest Forest Plan. The Forest Service is formally seeking input on what the scope of the amendment should be. We're excited about the opportunity to build on what worked well in the initial plan and update the plan to address a changing climate. We hope you'll join us in asking for a focused amendment that builds on the successes of the original plan, while helping our forest be resilient through climate change. We've created some talking points below to help you write your comments. Submit your comments by Feb 2 at this link: <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public//CommentInput?Project=64745>

Learn more here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/12/18/2023-27742/region-5-and-region-6-california-oregon-and-washington-forest-plan-amendment-for-planning-and#addresses>

Talking Points NWFP Amendment:

- **Protection for mature and old-growth forests.** Although the Northwest Forest Plan protects some older forests, it does not protect all older forests. Given the increased pace of wildfires and other disturbances it's imperative we protect all older forests, especially those on the cusp of becoming old-growth.
- **Carbon Mitigation and Carbon Reserves.** Carbon mitigation should be a primary objective of at least some areas on each national forest. I'd like the agency to consider creating carbon reserves that are primarily managed for carbon mitigation and storage.
- **Treat westside forest fire mitigation differently than eastside forest fire mitigation.** Moisture-rich Westside forests within the cascades are very different from drier eastside forests. Thinning for fire risk mitigation is not effective for meaningfully reducing fire risk in wetter westside forests and the Northwest Forest Plan should reflect the nuances of each forest type when crafting plans to increase forest resilience.
- Update the Northwest Forest Plan with a climate change focus. An amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan focused on climate resilience would be a good way to incorporate policy changes needed to ensure our forests in the northwest are resilient to climate change.
- Support for tribal inclusion & co-stewardship. I support a greater focus on incorporating tribal knowledge and creating co-stewardship opportunities in the updated Northwest Forest Plan.

NATIONAL EFFORT TO PROTECT OLD-GROWTH

The Biden Administration is taking steps to conserve existing old-growth and recruit new old-growth on all national forests across the country. The Forest Service has released an early draft of this old-growth management plan and is soliciting public comment through Feb 2nd. Join us in helping make this proposal stronger to ensure it protects old-growth and mature forests across the country. We've developed some talking points below to help you with your comments. Comment here: <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public//CommentInput?Project=65356>

Learn more here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/12/20/2023-27875/land-management-plan-direction-for-old-growth-forest-conditions-across-the-national-forest-system>

Talking Points New Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forest Conditions:

- Protection for mature & old-growth forests. I am supportive of the agency's intent to protect all existing old-growth and to create more old-growth by protecting and improving mature forests.
- Severely limit timber harvest in old-growth. Old-growth should generally be left alone, especially in west-side forests in the Pacific Northwest. I support the agency disallowing timber production in old-growth on all national forest lands.
- Severely narrow the exceptions permitting timber harvest in old-growth. I feel that the current plan's exceptions allowing economic-based management (timber harvests) in old-growth and mature forests are too broad. Any exceptions to the plan's limitations should be very limited in scope and scale.
- The current plan does not provide enough specific direction on the recruitment of new old-growth. I feel the current plan's directive to recruit new old-growth does not provide enough direction to individual forest managers. The plan's proposed language should be updated to require a minimum amount of acreage, or a percentage of mature forests within each national forest to ensure they do not under-apply the new plan components.
- Recruitment of new old-growth should consider habitat connectivity. As the climate changes and stress is placed on all species, habitat connectivity will be critical for the survival of several species. Efforts to recruit new old-growth should help connect patches of existing high quality habitat.
- Support for tribal inclusion. I support incorporating indigenous knowledge along with western science into the strategy to protect existing old-growth and the recruitment of new old-growth.



Questions?

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