



February 2, 2024

United States Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

RE: NWFP

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition (RVCC), I'd like to thank the Forest Service for this opportunity to submit comments related to the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment. We are eager to contribute to this effort and participate in the dialogue in order to establish a comprehensive and science-based management plan.

RVCC strongly endorses practices that align with what we have dubbed "the Stewardship Economy" - an economy shaped by the need, and responsibility, to manage for the sustainability of both land and communities. At the heart of this concept is the need to develop a more reciprocal relationship between our communities and landscapes. In developing the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment, we trust that the agency will strike a thoughtful balance between adaptive forest management, community well-being and quality of life, effective wildfire mitigation, and sustainable and accessible recreation. And we look forward to engaging in dialogue related to five interrelated topic areas of focus including:

- Improving fire resistance and resilience across the NWFP planning area,
- Strengthening the capacity of NWFP ecosystems to adapt to the ongoing effects of climate change,
- Improving conservation and recruitment of mature and old-growth forest conditions, ensuring adequate habitat for species dependent upon mature and old growth ecosystems and supporting regional biodiversity,
- Incorporating Indigenous Knowledge into planning, project design, and implementation to achieve forest management goals and meet the agency's general trust responsibilities, and
- Providing a predictable supply of timber and non-timber products, and other economic opportunities to support the long-term sustainability of communities located proximate to National Forest System lands and economically connected to forest resources.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this feedback. If we can provide any further input as the Forest Service continues in the process of amending the Northwest Forest Plan, please don't hesitate to contact me at laurel@ruralvoicescoalition.org.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurel Harkness". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laurel Harkness, Coalition Director
Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition