

OT	S	RT	DT	EA	F	RI	CE

Attributes

Response Type: 1 - Letter

Delivery Type: W - Web-based submission

IP Address: 71.112.85.29

Form Letter:

Comments

To USFS personnel, stewards of our public lands:

Thankyou for this exhaustive work to plan for the future of our national forest lands. I especially appreciated planning for global warming changes and the need to improve the ability of plants and animals to move between USFS lands as habitat changes. I agreed most often with Alternative D to accomplish the goals I'm most concerned about.

For instance, road removal in riparian conservation areas and key watersheds must be a restoration priority. In fact, identifying watersheds that have the highest values and least impacted by human activities are crucial to use as a basis to determine effects of climate change. The recent addition of the Wild Sky Wilderness, which adds to the protection of the North Fork Skykomish River, is a good example.

Using undisturbed forests (like the Andrews Experimental Forest) to plan restoration efforts is important .

Since most watersheds extend beyond USFS lands, planning must include many agencies, jurisdictions, transportation depts. etc. Canada must be involved for wildlife planning, especially for endangered species, wolverines, wolves, fishers, etc. Mitigating the impact of highway barriers to wildlife migration is crucial. Wildlife passage over and under travel corridors, such as US 2 in Wash. & Montana needs support and action.

Recent restoration efforts to harvest small diameter trees, leaving larger trees to more quickly create a older growth forest is important. I liked emphasis on riparian areas to maintain forest and wildlife health between devleoped areas.

Planning should also recognize negative impacts like poaching, most often caused by easy access to critical habitat areas. I really support reducing road densities, even hiking trails where critical habitat exists.

For these and many other reasons I hope you support as many of the concepts in Alternative D as possible.

Thanks again for all your efforts to steward our most important national asset, out national forests.

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Created On	3/1/2011 8:54:00 PM