**Healthy Forests = Healthy Wildlife**

**Help Protect Our Northwest Forests**

**What is the Northwest Forest Plan?**
The Northwest Forest Plan is a landmark federal policy implemented in 1994 to address the conservation and management of old-growth forests in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States—specifically, the states of Washington, Oregon, and California. The plan was developed in response to the loss of old-growth forest ecosystems, habitat loss for endangered species, and conflicts between logging interests and conservation.

**Key objectives of the Northwest Forest Plan include:**

- **Conservation of Old-Growth Forests.** The plan aims to protect and restore the remaining old-growth forests, which are vital for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem health.

- **Habitat Conservation.** The plan seeks to preserve habitat for endangered species, such as the Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet, by setting aside significant portions of forested land as reserves.

- **Sustainable Timber Harvest.** The plan allows for some timber harvesting in designated areas outside of reserves, while emphasizing sustainable forest management practices to minimize environmental impacts.

- **Community Stability.** In the 1990s, many rural communities were timber-harvest dependent. Changes in forest management practices were blamed for job losses and mill closures. The plan aimed to provide economic stability through alternative economic development strategies and job retraining programs.

Overall, the Northwest Forest Plan has been a success. The limited and authentic old-growth forest that remains is being protected and preserved. When protected, mature trees grow older and bigger, all the while taking carbon dioxide out of our atmosphere and storing it securely above and below the forest floor. If we continue to protect these stands, they can and will achieve old-growth status.

**Why is the plan being amended?**
The Northwest Forest Plan is being considered for amendment for several reasons:

- **Changing Environmental Conditions.** Environmental conditions are different now compared to when the plan was implemented in 1994, including climate change impacts, wildfire frequency and intensity, and the spread of forest diseases and pests. These changes may necessitate updates to the plan to ensure its continued effectiveness in conserving forest ecosystems and species.

- **Scientific Research and Monitoring.** Advances in scientific understanding of forest ecology, wildlife biology, and ecosystem management warrant adjustments to the Northwest Forest Plan to incorporate new research findings and best practices.
What could go wrong in the amendment process?
Recognizing their important contribution to curbing carbon emissions, President Biden has directed the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service to inventory and prioritize protections for old-growth forests. Unfortunately, that policy emphasis neglects to protect our current mature forests, which are old growth in the making.

Industrial timber companies would like to increase logging of large mature stands. To that end, timber companies can be expected to dominate the amendment process and pry back some of the protections provided by the Northwest Forest Plan. They will say that more aggressive forest management (logging) is needed to protect the forests from wildfire and disease. Timber interests will argue that coastal communities need more logging to provide jobs and fuel our economy. They might even claim that more logging is the solution to our housing crisis.

We cannot let that happen. We cannot surrender everything that has been accomplished since the plan was put in place three decades ago.

What can you do to protect the Siuslaw National Forest and its big, old trees?
Write, call, or email the public officials responsible for our forests (see below). Tell them to support and fully implement President Biden’s guidance for old growth and mature forests. Tell them our climate, wildlife, waters, and very future depend on it.

Remind them that the Siuslaw is a temperate rainforest, and its fire regime is nothing like other national forests. Commercial logging should never be used as a means to reduce fire risk.

Tell them the socio-economics of the Oregon Coast have changed dramatically. We are no longer timber-revenue dependent. Our communities thrive in, and rely on, a beautiful natural ecosystem.

Sign up for email updates from the Siuslaw Regional office and both Ranger Districts. Stay informed and become involved. These are YOUR public lands.

Join, contribute, and engage with conservation organizations like ours. Together we can make a difference!

What is the line of authority for the Siuslaw National Forest?

President of the United States - Joseph R. Biden
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE - Thomas J. Vilsack
U.S. Forest Service Chief - Randy Moore*
U.S. Forest Service Associate Chief - Angela Coleman
U.S. Forest Service Regional Forester - Jaqueline Buchanan*
Siuslaw National Forest Supervisor - Becca Brooke*
Hebo District Head Ranger - Bill Conroy
Central Coast Head Ranger (Interim) - Kailey Marcinkowski

*These officials are especially important to contact.