

# NORTHWEST FOREST PLAN FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

**APRIL 16 - 18, 2024**  
**REDDING RANCHERIA TRINITY HEALTH CENTER**  
**WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA**

**Introduction:** The Northwest Forest Plan Federal Advisory Committee (the Committee) held its fourth meeting April 16-18, 2024, in Weaverville, CA. The Committee was established July 7, 2023.

**Objectives:** Finalize recommendations to the Forest Service to inform the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) amendment draft Proposed Action. Discuss the process and timeline following the April meeting, including Implementation and Leadership Commitments. *On April 16, the Committee confirmed a change in the objectives for the meeting. Instead of finalizing recommendations, the Committee reviewed initial temperature check results and discussed intent for draft recommendations with Committee disagreement.*

**Attendees:** The FAC members, staff, contractors, and the public who attended are listed in Appendix B.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024

## **Welcome and Land Acknowledgment**

*Rachel Birkey, Forest Supervisor Shasta-Trinity National Forest, U.S Forest Service*

*Cory Archer, Facilitator, True Wind Collaborative*

*Jacque Buchanan, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service*

*Annie Goode, Director, Pacific Planning Service Group, U.S. Forest Service*

*Susan Jane Brown, FAC co-chair, Silvix Resources*

The facilitator called the room to attention and welcomed the Committee members, Forest Service staff, and members of the public. The facilitator introduced Rachel Birkey the Forest Supervisor of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, who delivered the land acknowledgment. The Redding Rancheria Trinity Health Center is located on Pit River, Wintu, and Yana people land, whose people have been stewards of the land since time immemorial.

The Designated Federal Officer (DFO) thanked Rachel Birkey for the land acknowledgment and thanked the Committee for their hard work leading up to the Committee meeting. The DFO thanked Nick Goulette for organizing the meeting location and believes the location will inspire the Committee as they discuss recommendations. The DFO also thanked the Trinity Health Center for hosting the Committee, and the Forest Service and facilitation team for all the support in getting the Committee to where they are today.

The Committee co-chair gave opening remarks. The co-chair thanked everyone who helped organize the Committee meeting and Monday's field trip. They identified it will be a tough week, but these are important issues to work through. The co-chair ended their opening remarks by sharing a passage from the record of decisions that created the NWFP in April of 1993.

### **Public Comment**

The Committee heard from nine (9) members of the public during the time for public comment and received 25 written comments. The public comment period closed on April 5, 2024. Themes from oral testimonies include:

- The importance of addressing roads, trails, and recreation in the NWFP.
- Non-federally recognized Tribes should be included in the NWFP amendment recommendations.
- Prescribed fires and cultural burning play a crucial role in mitigating catastrophic wildfires and reducing their intensity. In addition to these benefits, prescribed fires and cultural burning can create employment opportunities and help restore ecosystems. The Committee should take Tribal Ecological Knowledge (TEK) into account when making decisions regarding beneficial/prescribed burning, as there is much to learn from this practice.
- The Northern Spotted Owl played a significant role in the creation of the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP). However, there has been insufficient focus on addressing the habitat requirements of this endangered species. The owl is currently threatened and is gradually migrating from northern California to British Columbia. The recommendations must incorporate more collaboration and restoration efforts to ensure the survival of this species.
- The recommendations for NWFP amendments should involve collaborating with local communities to gain insight into their forest activities and identify effective practices that can be shared between forests.
- The Committee should provide recommendations that can assist Forest Managers and workers on the ground with plan implementation. Accountability and enforcement measures must be put in place to ensure that the plan is carried out successfully, as it appears that some workers on the ground may not be aligned with the current NWFP.
- Historically, prescribed burning events have led to catastrophic fires with devastating effects on local communities, and a more effective method is needed for these burnings. Prescribed burnings should be supervised by locals who understand the terrain and can determine when it is safe to conduct a burn. Furthermore, before and after burns, monitoring and assessments should be conducted to aid in the rehabilitation of the land and to assess the current inventory of fuels in the forests.
- The NWFP amendment recommendations should strengthen the standards for Late Successional Reserves (LSRs) and riparian reserves.

A Committee member expressed gratitude to the public for attending the meeting and sharing their comments. The Committee will consider all feedback when recommending plan amendments to the Forest Service.

Another committee member encouraged their members to read the written comments, as these also provide valuable content and input.

The facilitator thanked attendees for their comments and for sharing their lived experiences.

## Agenda Review, Indicating Level of Support, and the Voting Process

*Cory Archer, Facilitator, True Wind Collaborative*

*Jacque Buchanan, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service*

*Annie Goode, Director, Pacific Planning Service Group, U.S. Forest Service*

The facilitator invited Committee members to introduce themselves and reviewed the agenda for the day. The goal of the meeting is to review all refined draft recommendations and confirm which have consensus support from the Committee. The meeting goals and voting process can be viewed here, starting on slide 3: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1177481.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1177481.pdf)

### *Indicating Level of Support:*

To prepare for the meeting, the Committee completed 11 temperature check surveys to indicate their initial level of support for the draft recommendations.

The Committee was able to choose from five (5) levels of support:

1. Endorsement- "I like it."
2. Agreement with reservations- "I can live with it."
3. Stand aside/ Mixed feelings- "OK with what the group decides" or "I have no opinion."
4. Formal disagreement- "I don't like this, but I don't want to hold up the group."
5. Veto- "I veto this recommendation."

Three (3) levels of support were identified from these results:

1. Strong support: The majority of the Committee indicated "Endorsement," "Agrees with reservations," or "Stands aside/ Mixed feelings."
2. Formal disagreement: Three (3) or more people voted "Formal disagreement."
3. Veto: One (1) or more people voted "Veto."

### Discussion/Questions

Q = Question, A = Answer, C = Comment

- **Q:** If only one or two disagree with a recommendation, will there be an opportunity for discussion to reach a consensus?  
**A:** The Committee will start with the recommendations that have a greater level of disagreement, and then there will be an opportunity to make small changes to the "Strong support" recommendations that will be included in the final discussion, language, and vote.
- **Q:** We were given our responses, but no overall summary exists. How do we know what the rest of the committee is feeling?  
**A:** We will review these results as a group during the meeting and will share resources after today's meeting.

- **Q:** “Stand Aside/ Mixed feelings” may have been selected without wanting to formally disagree with a recommendation. Will there be an opportunity to review and better understand the recommendation?  
**A:** Yes, there will be an opportunity to ask these types of questions at the end of the discussion.

### *Voting Process:*

The facilitator introduced the voting process to the Committee. The voting process consists of two voting methods:

1. A non-binding temperature check using survey results and in-person “hold up fingers.” This will help guide the binding vote.
2. The binding vote, which confirms the recommendation as supported or not supported.

The Committee will first review the survey results, then use a “show of hands” to determine if they are ready to move to the binding vote. If the Committee is ready, a binding vote will be held to determine whether the recommendation will be included or removed from the report.

### Discussion/Questions

Q = Question, A = Answer, C = Comment

- **Q:** Members of the Committee are still working to gather feedback from colleagues and provide input to these recommendations, and not everyone is comfortable or ready to come to an agreement this week. Can the Committee continue wordsmithing after this meeting to absorb the conversation, hear from colleagues, and make additional line edits?  
**A:** Knowing the Committee’s charge is to agree on these this week, the Committee can work on the recommendations that do have that level of support, and the stickier recommendations can be saved for day three for further conversation.
- **Q:** Can additional recommendations be added after this week?  
**A:** This is the final push for the Committee's recommendations for the proposed draft. There will be additional opportunities to add recommendations after the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). However, consultation cannot start until there is a draft EIS.
- **C:** The Committee needs additional time for meaningful Tribal inclusion and consultation. Another tribal forum is scheduled for late April, and the Committee should ensure those voices are heard and their feedback considered.
- **Q:** Will the draft EIS be completed by the June meeting? Has the timeline shifted?  
**A:** The intent is to move forward with these recommendations to identify the direction of the plan amendment. There is not a big shift in the timeline; however, the Forest Service is matching the steps of the National Old Growth Amendment (NOGA).
- **Q:** There is concern about following the NOGA timeline. These are two large amendments, and it is a lot to ask of the public to provide meaningful engagement and feedback on both. Can there be some separation of timelines?

**A:** The NWFP Amendment process is slightly behind the NOGA timeline, which leaves some separation and timeline flexibility if needed.

- **Q:** The Communities subcommittee does not feel like they were adequately supported by the Forest Service when drafting ideas and options. What level of support can the Committee expect from the Forest Service after this week's discussions?

**A:** The DFO and the Forest Service will discuss a plan for adequate support moving forward.

## Discussion and Approve Recommendations

*Cory Archer, Facilitator, True Wind Collaborative*

*Jacque Buchanan, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service*

*Annie Goode, Director, Pacific Planning Service Group, U.S. Forest Service*

### *Support Economic Opportunities and Sustainable Communities:*

The facilitator reviewed the temperature check survey results for section 2, Support Economic Opportunities and Sustainable Communities. This section consisted of nine (9) recommendations and received 16 responses from the Committee. Of the nine (9) recommendations, seven (7) were supported, two (2) were in formal disagreement, and zero (0) were vetoed. The recommendations that require additional discussion are highlighted below. The full temperature check survey results can be viewed here, starting on slide 22:

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1177481.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1177481.pdf)

### Discussion/Questions

Q = Question, A = Answer, C = Comment

2-4 Desired Condition (DC): Local service and stewardship contracting and/or cooperative agreements represent a steady to expanding percentage of non-staff spending on public lands stewardship.

- **C:** Service and labor contracting, since the NWFP era, has been packaged into regional contracts, meaning large firms usually win the work. Since these contracts are categorized regionally, there are loopholes for who can win the work. This recommendation would make it easier for smaller, local firms to compete and win this type of work. The goal is to have a process to engage and package contracts that are attractive to local units and firms.
- **Q:** Would the Forest Service be able to implement and follow this recommendation?  
**A:** The agency does have the variability the Committee is talking about. The Forest Service can determine the size of the project and make it appeal to the smaller operators. This could be a management approach or an objective.
- **C:** The intent behind this recommendation is already in the NWFP. The goal of this recommendation is to ensure it is measurable and enforceable.  
**C:** A standard or guideline could be added to ensure this is measurable and enforceable.

2-5 Objective (OBJ): Every five years, the Forest will monitor socioeconomic conditions in local communities and infrastructure to better understand trends and opportunities to foster economic development supported by the National Forest System.

- **C:** This objective needs to be rephrased or moved around to find a better fit and may be outside the scope of the amendment. The intent behind this recommendation is to ensure there are quantitative and qualitative measurements, accountability, and changes based on the trends being observed.
- **Q:** Didn't the Forest Service confirm that monitoring would be a part of the leadership commitments?  
**A:** The Forest Service will examine both sides to best understand where this recommendation should be placed. The Forest Service will then report back to the Committee.

Discussion regarding the remaining recommendations:

- **C:** For recommendation 2-3, add "consultation" to other values related to the landscape.
- **C:** Recommendation 2-6 should remove point one. Management strategies and actions should not be changed if there is no local capacity.  
**C:** Alignment is still required to maintain infrastructure, unsure how to rephrase the recommendation, but the counterpoint should be considered.  
**C:** Stewardship economies are also affected by this, which should be explicit in the recommendation.
- **C:** "Tribes" should be added to recommendation 2-7.
- **Q:** Recommendations 2-5 and 2-8 seem to have the same language and suggest they be combined with 2-9. Should these be a management approach or an objective?  
**A:** The Forest Service suggests a management approach and will identify one of two recommendations that captures the essence of all three.

### Updated Expectations for the Committee Meeting

*Cory Archer, Facilitator, True Wind Collaborative*

*Jacque Buchanan, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service*

*Annie Goode, Director, Pacific Planning Service Group, U.S. Forest Service*

Over lunch, the Forest Service had a chance to discuss the voting timeline after hearing the Committee's concerns during the morning session. The Forest Service will expand the voting timeframe beyond this meeting to give the Committee more time and for the Forest Service to hear the intent behind the recommendations. The Forest Service will work on listening to Committee intent for recommendations based on the day's conversation and present updates at the beginning of days two and three. The Committee will meet at a future time to finalize and vote on recommendations for the draft EIS.

### Discussion/Questions

Q = Question, A = Answer, C = Comment

- **Q:** Can the Committee add recommendations between this meeting and May?  
**A:** The Forest Service will consider additional recommendations if there is a need for it.
- **Q:** Will the Forest Service have the survey results to implement the recommended language provided during the temperature checks?  
**A:** Yes, the results will be shared with the Forest Service for feedback implementation.
- **Q:** How will voting be conducted if members are unable to attend the May meeting?  
**A:** Per the operating procedures, members will need to attend to cast a vote. If there are extenuating circumstances, the Forest Service and the facilitation team will work to ensure all votes are counted.

### Discussion and Defining Intent for Recommendations

*Cory Archer, Facilitator, True Wind Collaborative*

*Jacque Buchanan, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service*

*Annie Goode, Director, Pacific Planning Service Group, U.S. Forest Service*

#### *Increase Focus on Fire Resiliency:*

The facilitator opened the discussion by reviewing the temperature check survey results for section 3, Increase Focus on Fire Resiliency. This section consisted of 19 recommendations and received 17 responses from the Committee. Of the 19 recommendations, 16 were supported, zero (0) were in formal disagreement, and three (3) were vetoed. The recommendations that require additional discussion are highlighted below. The full temperature check survey results can be viewed here, starting on slide 32: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1177481.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1177481.pdf)

#### Discussion/Questions

Q = Question, A = Answer, C = Comment

3-11 GDL/MA: National Forests in the NWFP area should generate partnership agreements that allow college and university fire programs to engage in prescribed fire work and training on National Forest lands, providing mutually beneficial outcomes of increasing the pace and scale of wildfire resilience treatment, and engaging youth in land stewardship career pathways.

- **C:** This recommendation should include fire stewardship and be combined with 3-10 DC/GOAL/MA: *To meet the pace and scale of needed wildfire resilience treatments, including thinning, prescribed fire, and cultural fire, and address the intergenerational burdens of intensifying risk, Forests should collaborate with K-12 and higher educational institutions to develop shared strategies and programs for student awareness and involvement in pathways into wildfire resilience work. The Forests should work with high school and college programs and engage with experiential and curricular learning in elementary and middle schools.*
- **C:** This recommendation could also be framed as a leadership commitment, outlining what needs to be done to ensure successful execution.

3-12 GOAL: Resources, planning, infrastructure, training, and workforce development strengthen the capacity of communities to prepare for, respond to, manage, and recover from wildland fire. This includes proactive management for ecological restoration, fuels reduction, cultural burning, prescribed fire, and wildland fire. This includes recognition and inclusion of diverse perspectives such as, but not limited to, Tribal communities, timber-based economy communities, recreation communities, and biodiversity perspectives.

- **Q:** Is this recommendation for managed wildland fire? Some people are hesitant about using managed wildfire for management control. Additional clarity is needed.  
**A:** This recommendation is intended to be proactive. It may also be better suited as a desired condition.

3-6 GOAL: Establish a staff position on each National Forest to foster partnerships with colleges, K-12 education, and local organizations to create and expand comprehensive student training and experiential learning opportunities in fire (fire suppression and fuels related).

- **C:** This recommendation may be more appropriate as a leadership commitment rather than being included in the amendment.

Discussion regarding the remaining recommendations:

- **C:** Recommendations 3-7 and 3-8 should be combined; there is also concern about bringing in a specific timeline.  
**C:** The Forest Service will consider timelines when combining 3-7 and 3-8 recommendations.
- **C:** 3-17 should clarify that “communities” are related to “human” communities, as many other communities need to be improved and stewarded.
- **C:** 3-17 and 3-18 should be combined, along with adding other values and risks to clarify the need.

#### *Anticipate Climate-Driven Shifts and Maintain Ecosystem Integrity:*

After a short break, the facilitator opened the discussion by reviewing the temperature check survey results for section 4, Anticipate Climate-Driven Shifts and Maintain Ecosystem Integrity. This section consisted of 20 recommendations and received 17 responses from the Committee. Of the 20 recommendations, 15 were supported, one (1) was in formal disagreement, and four (4) were vetoed. The recommendations that require additional discussion are highlighted below. The full temperature check survey results can be viewed here, starting on slide 43:

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1177481.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1177481.pdf)

#### Discussion/Questions

Q = Question, A = Answer, C = Comment

4-7 DC: The landscape displays habitat connectivity and refugia for the movement of wildlife, supporting ecological integrity in a changing climate.



- **C:** The recommendation should emphasize high levels of permeability in landscapes rather than being overly specific on wildlife habitat.
- **A:** The Forest Service will identify the specific language in the 2012 Planning Rule that addresses connectivity and will work on rewriting this recommendation while maintaining the intent.

4-8 OBJ: Within eight years, develop threshold assessments for monitoring climate change stressors including but not limited to frequency, scale, and intensity of wildfire, fish and wildlife population decreases, frequency of extreme heat days, range shifts in vegetation and wildlife, prolonged elevation of average stream temperatures, and significant changes in precipitation patterns (e.g. drought and flooding). Assessments will include steps to operationalize adaptive management actions within three years if monitoring indicates a climate change stressor threshold is exceeded.

- **C:** The intent of this recommendation is to identify and execute actions after monitoring has met certain thresholds. The goal is to empower Forest Service action and hold them accountable.
- **C:** This could be a broader recommendation in the adaptive management section.

4-11 GDL: Silviculture treatments and other stand-scale management activities should actively consider climate change effects and include adaptation measures.

- **C:** There is currently an executive order regarding this recommendation. The Forest Service will review the executive order and follow up with the Committee.

4-19 MA: Ensure that site specific projects evaluate road densities and take action to reduce road densities consistent with mitigating risks of large hydrologic events and associated potential for erosion, mass wasting, etc.

- **C:** The Forest Service is already implementing in some capacity, there is an opportunity to broaden the scope as it relates to climate resiliency.
- **C:** When evaluating road densities, access for all purposes should be considered, both current and for the future.
- **C:** Roads can deposit sediment and other materials into habitats and streams that are harmful to wildlife. Additional assessments should be completed to identify what roads are not needed and can be removed.
- **C:** The Forest Service is clear on the intent of the recommendation. They will consider all feedback and fill in anything that is missing from the current management approach.

4-20 MA: Ensure that site specific projects evaluate opportunities for stream and watershed restoration including but not limited to treatment of invasive species, planting and cultivation of desired native species cover, stabilization and remediation of erosion, restoration of floodplains, and placement or recruitment of large wood over time.

- **C:** This recommendation may overlap with the 2012 Planning Rule; affirmative language may be more beneficial.

- **C:** This is a key priority that will be beneficial for Tribes.

Discussion regarding the remaining recommendations:

- **C:** Tribes should be included in recommendation 4-16.

*Support Carbon Sequestration and Storage:*

The facilitator started the discussion by reviewing the temperature check survey results for section 5, Support Carbon Sequestration and Storage. This section consisted of four (4) recommendations and received 17 responses from the Committee. Of the four (4) recommendations, zero (0) were supported, zero (0) had formal disagreement, and four (4) were vetoed. The recommendations that require additional discussion are highlighted below. The full temperature check survey results can be viewed here, starting on slide 60: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1177481.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1177481.pdf)

Discussion/Questions

Q = Question, A = Answer, C = Comment

5-1 DC: In Moist Forests, landscape-level, in-forest carbon stocks in plantations increase and mature and old growth forests are maintained.

- **C:** Mature and old growth are different and should be separated.
- **C:** Ecological Forest Management in what have been the plantations will result in greatly increased amounts of carbon storage in the managed forests due to retention.

5-2 DC: In Dry Forests, forest resilience treatments are used to stabilize landscape-level in-forest carbon stocks from loss due to uncharacteristically severe disturbances. This will include a long-term shifting from carbon storage in denser forest stands with many smaller, drought and fire sensitive trees to stands with fewer, larger, drought and fire resilient trees.

- **C:** This recommendation is to align with fire resilience and the dry forest management recommendations.
- **C:** The trade-offs should be considered when looking to increase carbon stocks and on-the-ground management.
- **C:** The Forest Service will work with their research group to address conflicting opinions regarding whether timber harvest is carbon-neutral or carbon-emitting.

Recommendations 5-3 and 5-4 were not discussed as they relate directly to recommendations 5-1 and 5-2 respectively.

**Closing Remarks and Next-Day Lookahead**

*Cory Archer, Facilitator, True Wind Collaborative*  
*Jacque Buchanan, Northwest Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service*  
*Susan Jane Brown, FAC co-chair, Silvix Resources*

The facilitator acknowledged progress made by the Committee over the first day. The Forest Service will utilize the feedback and intentions gathered from the day's discussions to begin refining the recommendations. At the start of day two, the Forest Service will provide an update on their progress.

The Committee co-chair thanked the Committee for its hard work and the Forest Service for its ability to pivot when needed. As the pressure of voting has been removed, the co-chair believes there will be more space to continue the discussion and dialog around these challenging issues. Lastly, they requested that the Committee continue to be generous, thoughtful, and patient with each other.

The DFO was pleased with the adaptations made by the Committee and the Forest Service. After the meeting, the Forest Service will work diligently to provide the group with technical assistance for recommendations on day two.

## Welcome and Opening Remarks

*Cory Archer, Facilitator, True Wind Collaborative*

*Meryl Harrell, Deputy Under Secretary, U.S. Forest Service*

*Jacque Buchanan, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service*

*Annie Goode, Director, Pacific Planning Service Group, U.S. Forest Service*

*Susan Jane Brown, FAC co-chair, FAC co-chair, Silvix Resources*

*Travis Joseph, FAC co-chair, American Forest Resource Council*

The facilitator welcomed the group to day two of the Federal Advisory Committee meeting and introduced Meryl Harrell, the Deputy Under Secretary, who will join the conversation over the next two days. The facilitator then invited the Committee co-chairs and the Forest Service to reflect on day one and give opening remarks.

The Committee co-chairs are looking forward to the day's discussion. The revised discussion pattern will allow the Committee to move forward with the conversation and offer space for success. One Committee co-chair was able to join the Forest Service this morning during their redrafting session and is excited to see the engagement and work put in by the Forest Service in supporting the draft recommendation language. The Forest Service will provide a more in-depth update later this morning.

The DFO expressed appreciation for yesterday's conversation and acknowledged that the decision to shift was necessary. The DFO is proud of the Forest Service's hard work, eagerness, and ability to carry the positive momentum from the day into their evening working session. They are excited to share the progress with the Committee later today.

The Deputy Under Secretary thanked the Committee for the opportunity to join the conversation. It is evident the Committee has been working hard on these recommendations. The decision to shift is supported, and the Forest Service wants to ensure there is space for conversation and to achieve the goals that have been identified. The Forest Service is working hard to hear the Committee's intent, work on updated language, and come back to the group for another round of refinement. These conversations will continue as the process moves into consultation and public engagement. After which there will be another round of reflection on the feedback received from the committee, including new ideas, and next steps. The group has the Deputy Under Secretary's full support.

A new Committee member has been selected and will be joining the FAC in June. They are here today to listen to the conversation, and the group is looking forward to their full participation.

## Discussion/Questions

Q = Question, A = Answer, C = Comment

- **Q:** May is a busy month for some of the Committee members. What will the May meeting look like for those who are unable to attend?

**A:** Further discussion regarding the May meeting is scheduled for Thursday.

## Forest Service Technical Assistance Work Update

*Annie Goode, Director, Pacific Planning Service Group, U.S. Forest Service*

After yesterday's meeting, the Forest Service gathered to review recommendation intent and provide technical assistance for recommendations development. The general approach is to take the recommendations and crosswalk the ideas to identify where recommendations could be combined to achieve or preserve the intent. Once completed, the Forest Service will bring the recommended edits to the Committee for review and consideration. The Forest Service then walked the Committee through an example recommendation, highlighting the document is still a work in progress.

### Discussion/Questions

Q = Question, A = Answer, C = Comment

- **C:** It's great to see this work and the improvement. The committee looks forward to reviewing the edits to make recommendations more concise.
- **C:** The Forest Service requests that the Committee clarify intent and nuances as recommendations are reviewed and discussed. This will help the Forest Service create new language and/or condense recommendations.
- **Q:** Turing over this document to the Forest Service to rewrite is difficult for the Committee. Will the Forest Service ensure they keep the recommendations' intent and voice?  
**A:** The Forest Service is focusing on rewording the recommendations to fit into the NWFP language, ensuring a smooth document. The Forest Service hears the Committee's concerns and wants to keep the intent and honor the committee's work. The only recommendations the Forest Service is changing are the ones discussed and flagged specifically for review. Any suggested edits on recommendations not discussed are to connect to the intent of another.
- **Q:** How will the Forest Service ensure intent is preserved for the recommendations that are agreed on and not discussed?  
**A:** The preamble language will identify and confirm intent.
- **C:** An explanation of key terms and phrases created by the Forest Service would be helpful.
- **Q:** To ensure intent is preserved, can the subcommittees reconvene to review the updated recommendations before the final vote?  
**A:** The Committee agrees to one additional subcommittee session to review these changes.

### **Recommendations Discussion**

*Cory Archer, Facilitator, True Wind Collaborative*

*Jacque Buchanan, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service*

*Annie Goode, Director, Pacific Planning Service Group, U.S. Forest Service*

### *Conserve Mature and Old Growth Forests*

The facilitator opened the discussion by reviewing the temperature check survey results for section 8, Conserve Mature and Old Growth Forests. This section consisted of 11 recommendations and received

17 responses from the Committee. Of the 11 recommendations, four (4) were supported, three (3) were in formal disagreement, and four (4) were vetoed. The full temperature check survey results can be viewed here, starting on slide 74:

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1177481.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1177481.pdf)

### Discussion/Questions

Q = Question, A = Answer, C = Comment

8-1 The EIS for the NWFP amendment should evaluate impacts of the following recommendations for a range of mature and old growth definitions, which might include: 1) No change, in which Forest Service maintains the current definitions of mature and old growth as defined in the 1994 NWFP: Mature is around 80 years plus structural definitions. Old is at least 180-220 years. There are also structural definitions. 2) 2018 Bioregional Assessment: Mature (or “late-successional forest”) is at least 100 to 200 years. Old is greater than 200 years. 3) Define mature moist forests as 100 years and dry mature forests as 150 years, plus appropriate structural characteristics. Old is greater than 200 years. 4) Define mature moist forests as stands originating prior to the year 1925 and dry mature forests as trees originating prior to 1875. (option to avoid “aging out” issue)

- **C:** There are no concerns with developing a range of alternatives defining mature and old growth. The alternatives laid out are reasonable and could even be expanded upon. The Forest Service should consider alternatives that protect size and class rather than age.
  
- **Q:** Understanding the implications of particular designations would be beneficial. What would be the feasibility of this assessment? Is there analytical capacity?  
**A:** The Forest Service has a relationship with Oregon State and can utilize that resource and data for a vegetation management analysis. The Forest Service will complete this analysis before the next subcommittee meeting.
  
- **C:** The Committee can align on a range of alternatives for the Forest Service to Consider in the draft EIS.
  
- **C:** Tribal leadership has noted that the year cap or age limit is a colonial and static definition. The structural component is important; however, it is solely Western science. Incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) will be valuable.
  
- **C:** Commercial logging is not the biggest threat to mature and old-growth forests; it is fire, disease, and climate. It is unclear how we should protect these forests when these other threats are not acknowledged.
  
- **C:** The mature definition should be set at a lower level than what is currently written in the NWFP as mature forests are the future recruitment of old growth.  
**C:** There is a concern about putting an age on mature forests; once they reach that age, they will be untouchable. This will lead to a reduced timber base and affect communities.

- **C:** The Committee is aligned on protecting the mature and old growth forests in the NWFP. The only exception is when there is a need to remove younger trees in dry forest stands to protect the old trees from fire or insects. Efforts should be made to integrate dry forests into the recommendation and define mature and old growth.
- **C:** The group has not recognized the use of fire to preserve old growth forests.
- **C:** The Committee could look into expanding some of these definitions in the matrix and AMAs. This would allow the mature space to be explored strategically using the alternatives in the analysis.

8-6 OBJ: During the planning horizon, active and passive management of mature and old growth forests will stabilize or increase the amount of old growth forest conditions present on the landscape over time relative to existing conditions.

- **C:** The reference to mature and old growth should be removed from this recommendation.
- **C:** The goal is to create resistance and resilience rather than growing more old growth in the matrix and AMAs. The matrix should preserve existing old growth.
- **C:** There is some disagreement with ruling out the opportunity to recruit old growth in the matrix and AMAs. There has been good recruitment for future old growth, and we should consider these opportunities.
- **C:** Identify if a large-scale analysis been done to meet the old growth-dependent species and should consider these preserving options for the future.
- **C:** Additional options for mature forests could be added to the framework, such as Mature, moist forests in the matrix.

8-7 OBJ: During the current planning horizon, restore ecological resilience to at least one third of extant Dry Forest while conserving and protecting old trees and conserving and promoting the development of future functional old-growth forest ecosystems appropriate for Dry Forests.

- **C:** Should be more, between one or two-thirds, intent is for proactive stewardship of dry forests.

8-8 OBJ: During the current planning horizon, implement silvicultural treatments that increase diversity, structural and compositional complexity, and resilience to disturbance across at least one third of extant managed stands.

- **C:** Need to include moist and dry.
- **C:** These recommendations feel too general. They need to have standards and guidelines to hold local managers accountable.

8-9 STD: Timber harvest and timber production in mature and old forest in all land use allocations is prohibited, except: 1) To prevent imminent danger to people or critical infrastructure; 2) For tribal cultural uses; 3) In seasonally dry, fire prone forests where: a) Stands likely historically experienced frequent fire; b) Natural resources including but not limited to old trees, wildlife habitat, or water quality are threatened by uncharacteristic disturbance; and, c) Silvicultural activities have been shown to be successful in restoring desired conditions for seasonally dry, fire prone forests.

- **C:** A separate standard may be needed for mature and old growth.  
**C:** There is some disagreement with that suggestion, as this recommendation includes subheading 3.
- **C:** Need to clarify this is commercial timber harvest.

### **Closing Remarks and Next-Day Lookahead**

*Cory Archer, Facilitator, True Wind Collaborative*

*Meryl Harrell, Deputy Under Secretary, U.S. Forest Service*

*Jacque Buchanan, Northwest Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service*

*Susan Jane Brown, FAC co-chair, Silvix Resources*

*Travis Joseph, FAC co-chair, American Forest Resource Council*

The Committee co-chairs expressed gratitude for everyone's perseverance through challenging conversations and shared their excitement about continuing the positive discussion tomorrow. They reminded the Committee that these are people's lands, and we are all working together to steward them.

The DFO thanked the Committee for their hard work. A lot of information was shared today, and the DFO values everyone's participation.

A Committee member appreciates the expertise and insights contributed to the plan and recommendations. They also appreciate those who give a voice to the community members who have been devastated by the original NWFP.

Another Committee member thanked the Forest Service for its flexibility and for allowing the Committee to have this much needed group conversation. They also expressed their appreciation for refining the recommendation language while keeping the Committee's intent.

The Deputy Under Secretary enjoyed the rich conversation and the Committee's ability to unpack the values and intent of these recommendations. They are excited to join the conversation tomorrow and work with the team to implement changes for the next round of feedback.



## **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

*Cory Archer, Facilitator, True Wind Collaborative*

*Meryl Harrell, Deputy Under Secretary, U.S. Forest Service*

*Susan Jane Brown, FAC co-chair, FAC co-chair, Silvix Resources*

*Travis Joseph, FAC co-chair, American Forest Resource Council*

The facilitator welcomed the group to the final day of the FAC meeting and invited the DFO to share opening remarks and reflect on day two.

The DFO brought attention to a comment that was shared prior. The Forest Service is actively listening and reflecting on the discussion and recommendations made by the Committee. The Forest Service agrees that these recommendations should reflect the voice of the Committee, and they are committed to incorporating the Committee's intent into the policies while best retaining the Committee's voice. This is a learning process for everyone involved, and if any adjustments need to be made, the Forest Service encourages the Committee to let them know.

The facilitator reviewed the agenda and opened the floor to any questions or comments the Committee may have.

Several committee members requested that the Tribal Inclusion discussion be moved up earlier in the day to include Tribal Inclusion members who need to leave early.

## **Forest Service Technical Assistance Work Update**

*Annie Goode, Director, Pacific Planning Service Group, U.S. Forest Service*

The facilitator invited the Forest Service to share their progress made to the Mature and Old Growth recommendations based on the discussion from Wednesday.

The Forest Service discussed the Mature and Old Growth section extensively. Their intent is to elevate the overall framework text with new desired conditions that are comprehensive, clear, and reflect the Committee's intent. The Forest Service also talked about integrating sections 7 and 8 to ensure a comprehensive Vegetation Management approach and overall strategy.

The Forest Service acknowledged that it can be challenging to see how the plan components work together. The idea is to create a suite of plan components that support an overall objective. The Forest Service is working to pull together buckets of the plan components and identify potential gaps to guide the Committee in identifying additional needed components.

In response to the Committee's request to identify different options for mature and old growth forests definitions, the Forest Service applied the first set of options to the framework table discussed on day two. The next steps include taking the suite of plan components and, as they are applied to the framework table, identifying where they need to vary or change when they are applied to the different definitions of mature and old growth. This exercise will allow the Forest Service and the Committee to

understand how varying the different definitions matter. The Forest Service suggests the Committee identify four (4) or five (5) alternatives for consideration.

After today's section 7 discussion, the Forest Service will meet to identify how timber will be integrated into the mature and old growth discussion and recommendations. The Forest Service has scheduled a multi-day working session following this week's meeting to finalize the recommendations based on the Committee's values and intent. Once complete, they will report back to the Committee for review.

### Discussion/Questions

Q = Question, A = Answer, C = Comment

- **C:** This sounds like a good approach. It should be reemphasized that the desire is to focus on more climate-resilient forests rather than all types of forests. In the dry forests, Douglas Fir trees are encroaching on and pushing out climate-resilient trees. The idea is that as we strive to increase old forests, the focus should be on the more resilient types consistent with the natural conditions of the forests.
- **C:** There is some discomfort around the age frame. While age is part of the definition, it is not the driving factor. Age does not reflect the nuances of the different forest and tree types; this can be discussed in more detail during the timber discussion.
- **C:** The Forest Service will highlight what the Committee shared regarding the differences between old growth and mature trees. The Forest Service will work to separate these and bring them back to the Committee to review and ensure the separation works with the recommendations, goals, and desired conditions of the forests.

### **Recommendations Discussion**

*Cory Archer, Facilitator, True Wind Collaborative*

*Jacque Buchanan, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service*

*Annie Goode, Director, Pacific Planning Service Group, U.S. Forest Service*

#### *Provide Predictability for Sustainable Timber Production:*

The facilitator began the discussion by reviewing the temperature check survey results for section 7, Provide Predictability for Sustainable Timber Production. This section consisted of 15 recommendations and received 16 responses from the Committee. Of the 15 recommendations, four (4) were supported, five (5) were in formal disagreement, and six (6) were vetoed. The full temperature check survey results can be viewed here, starting on slide 99:

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1177481.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1177481.pdf)

### Discussion/Questions

Q = Question, A = Answer, C = Comment

7-1: Matrix and Adaptive Management Areas provide the primary land base that will be managed to provide a sustainable supply of wood products and for the socioeconomic wellbeing of local communities. The Forest Service should focus this activity on plantations and other previously managed

forests with the goals of (1) providing a predictable and sustainable supply of wood products; and (2) restoring these forests to more structurally complex and biologically diverse managed forests that would also be more resistant and resilient to climate change.

- **C:** The Committee supports ecological practices for timber production; however, the recommendation language needs clarification. The Forest Service will help support wordsmithing.

7-3: Align ecological forestry and variable retention logging to support socioeconomic goals including but not limited to cultural use species and associated habitats.

- **C:** This recommendation will be included in the Vegetation Management approach. The Forest Service is also clear on the intent and desire.

7-4 DC: National forest lands provide significant wood products to local industries and significant non-timber economic opportunities to local and regional communities.

- **Q:** Is this recommendation within the NWFP's control? Can the plan also control what can be exported?  
**A:** According to federal law, no raw timber can be exported, nor can there be a substitution. There is currently a contracting process that goes through local communities.
- **C:** This recommendation should reference Treaty rights to close the gap and improve overall intent.
- **C:** This recommendation is already in the NWFP. It may be better to include the intent with recommendation 7-7. This could also be included as a leadership commitment.

7-5 DC: Timber production in Matrix and Adaptive Management Areas, and proactive stewardship of dry forests, creates a predictable and sustainable supply of forest products that significantly contributes to maintaining and increasing the current infrastructure.

- **Q:** This recommendation is in the original NWFP. How would the Committee like to see it appear as an amendment?  
**A:** The recommendation's intent is clear. This is an objective with a corresponding standard. As the Committee is aiming for a suite of plan components, this may not need to its own recommendation.
- **Q:** There needs to be a greater distinction between moist and dry. Who will be making this distinction? This needs to be elevated to the top of the framework and how it maps out spatially. There are currently good criteria, but more conversation is needed.  
**A:** The Forest Service received reference materials to use when considering language for the Committee when referencing moist vs. dry.

7-10 STD: Pre-disturbance surveys for Table C-3 wildlife species shall not be required for restoration treatments in seasonally dry, fire prone forests, or for timber harvest or timber production in matrix or in managed stands.

- **C:** This recommendation's intent is to memorialize existing settlement agreements and be clear that survey and manage surveys should not be required on all managed stands.
- **C:** These surveys have been a barrier for forest work. Can the Forest Service speak to what is done with the results or if they are beneficial? This recommendation should include action items that come out of the surveys.
- **C:** This recommendation could focus on the obstacles and roadblocks seen in survey and manage so that challenges on the ground can be addressed.
- **C:** A leadership commitment could be included to bolster the ASR process.

7-11 STD: In Matrix, use timber harvest to proactively manage managed stands to increase stand heterogeneity and provide for a long-term supply of timber products. Subsequent timber harvest of planted stands is encouraged.

- **C:** The intent is to continue to manage planted, young stands that should be restored, using ecological forest principles.
- **C:** Ecological forestry should be included as an overarching set of principles that encompasses a wide range of silviculture.
- **Q:** Is this recommendation's sole purpose timber production? If so, the recommendation should name that.  
**A:** Activities included in the amendment should not have a single outcome or value.  
**C:** Agree; this recommendation would focus on maximizing the value rather than the sole purpose of timber production.  
**C:** The Forest Service can develop projects with timber production as a primary purpose and a set of standards outlining ecological practices.

7-13 STD: Active management in Timber Harvest Stands shall include thinning, un-even aged management, and variable retention harvest silvicultural treatments. Silvicultural treatments shall be permitted in planted stands of any age in Late-Successional Reserves shall be consistent with desired conditions for late successional reserves. Variable retention harvest to create early seral habitat shall be limited to the Matrix land use allocation.

- **C:** This recommendation is disagreeable. Forests have a wide range of habitat types that wildlife relies on. This recommendation could transform the plantations into more diverse habitats. Requirements should not be placed on the Forest Service that prevents the establishment of habitats in LSRs.
- **C:** There is concern around the second sentence. The LSRs in the current NWFP west of the Cascades clearly state that no harvesting is allowed in stands over 80 years old. The Forest Service should understand that the 80-year limit does not apply to the dry, east-side LSRs.

- **C:** The recommendation should extend the age of these stands; one recommendation could be 120 years.
- **Q:** When using the language of silviculture, activity, and actions, does this mean the full suite of management activities, including fire? Or just cutting?  
**A:** The Forest Service is thinking of the full suite; “Vegetation Management” is more inclusive than silviculture.
- **C:** The Current NWFP includes prescribed fire in silviculture treatments in that section.

*Tribal Inclusion and Honoring Tribal Treaty, Reserved and Other Similar Tribal Rights, and Trust Responsibilities:*

The facilitator opened the discussion by reviewing the temperature check survey results for section 1, Tribal Inclusion and Honoring Tribal Treaty, Reserved and Other Similar Tribal Rights, and Trust Responsibilities. This section consisted of 146 recommendations and received 17 responses from the Committee. Of the 146 recommendations, 15 were supported, zero (0) were in formal disagreement, and 131 were vetoed. The full temperature check survey results can be viewed here, starting on slide 128: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1177481.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1177481.pdf)

The 131 recommendations were vetoed for the following reasons:

- Some may be better addressed through Leadership Commitments rather than in amendment.
- It’s hard to review these recommendations because of the duplication.
- Additional discussion is needed before feeling comfortable supporting these recommendations.

The facilitator approached the discussion differently than the other section due to the large number of vetoed recommendations. The facilitator invited the Committee to expand on their reasons for vetoing and invited the subcommittee co-chairs and members to share reflections and remarks.

One Committee member shared that the blanket veto was due to multiple plan components that seemed duplicative. They would like a better understanding of the intent and how it works in the context of the Forest Plan. There is a desire to build relationships between the Forest Service and the Tribes but dictating that relationship through the NWFP feels disingenuous.

A Tribal subcommittee member confirmed that these recommendations contain duplication. The goal is to approach some of these issues through different plan components. Some recommendations go beyond relationship building; they are the obligations not been met by the Federal Government. As Tribes were not engaged in 1994 when the plan was developed, the subcommittee was starting from a blank slate. The language is explicit and intentional and has been shared and vetted by a number of experts. The themes addressed in these recommendations include, but are not limited to, access, Indigenous Knowledge, First Foods, Treaty rights, Forest Service education, fire and cultural burning, workforce, inclusion of Tribal youth, and co-stewardship.

Another subcommittee and Tribal member shared that these recommendations are reserved rights that have been neglected and overlooked, and Tribal members have suffered because of this. Many Tribal members were able to review and provide feedback for these recommendations during the Tribal forum

in Snoqualmie, WA, and did not have many issues with the recommendations presented at the meeting. The main goal for Tribes is to preserve cultural resources in the National forests for current and future generations. Commercial harvesting is also threatening First Foods. The Forest Service needs to consider all recommendations, as well as better educate themselves on local Tribes.

The Committee co-chair closed reflections by sharing that these recommendations are only the tip of the iceberg.

Due to the number of recommendations identified, and the process the Tribal subcommittee has gone through, when it comes to voting the whole suite of recommendations are either in or out, no piecemealing. Recognizing that Tribal Inclusion is a critical component and a primary rationale for amending the NWFP and of establishing the Federal Advisory Committee (FAC).

### Discussion/Questions

Q = Question, A = Answer, C = Comment

- **C:** There is strong support for Forest Service education. These recommendations should also consider the line officers on the ground and what implementation would look like. Forest Service staff should know the Tribal members they are working with and understand how to respectfully engage.
- **Q:** How many recommendations can the Forest Service analyze, and what is the process for doing so? How does the Forest Service acknowledge the importance and precedent of the language, and how can we ensure that this remains a living document for ongoing consultation?  
**A:** Tribal Inclusion is a requirement of the 2012 Planning Rule. The Forest Service is really looking at Indigenous Knowledge as a way to manage these lands and shape what that path forward looks like. The Forest Service wants to honor the language created by the subcommittee and encourages everyone to think about how best to move forward and meet the intent that has been identified.
- **C:** A binning exercise, along with a Q&A session, would be beneficial to understand where there are duplications and gaps. The Tribal subcommittee will work on this exercise and share it with the Committee before they meet for the Q&A session.

### *Designate & Steward Community Protection Zones (CPZ):*

The facilitator started the discussion by reviewing the temperature check survey results for section 10, Designate & Steward Community Protection Zones (CPZ). This section consisted of seven (7) recommendations and received 16 responses from the Committee. Of the seven (7) recommendations, three (3) were supported, one (1) was in formal disagreement, and three (3) were vetoed. The full temperature check survey results can be viewed here, starting on slide 132:

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1177481.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1177481.pdf)

### Discussion/Questions

Q = Question, A = Answer, C = Comment

10-2 OBJ: Within three years all Forests will establish Community Protection Zones based on wildfire and disturbance analytics and community collaborative engagement. Delineation of Community Protection Zones will include assessment of public lands and private lands surrounding communities.

- **C:** Community collaborative engagement needs to be defined. This recommendation should be clear about how the Forest Service should engage and allow for flexibility.
- **Q:** Should there be a sideboard around CPZ boundaries? Data can be used to measure different layers and identify where the boundaries should be.  
**A:** Analytical requirements would be better addressed by the Forest Service.
- **C:** The Committee should consider “Community Protection Areas” rather than “zones.”
- **Q:** In Oakridge, creating CPZs presented a challenge due to the LSRs extending to the city borders. Should a recommendation be included to address this issue?  
**A:** Recommendation 10-5 may have language that could dovetail into that constraint.  
**C:** There may be a need for a hierarchy of plan components and LUAs to help address issues like these.
- **Q:** Will these zones cover all areas, including non-federal lands, or only federal lands?  
**A:** While this is an all-lands issue, the Committee should not be prescribing management of non-federal lands.
- **C:** The landscape will drive what CPZs look like, standards and guidelines should take priority over everything else in these areas. Smoke, floods, and other climate crisis changes should be considered as well.

10-3 STD: Delineation of resources included in Community Protection Zones can be revised in the course of site-specific project planning and shall include but not be limited to: 1) Transportation infrastructure. 2) Facilities including but not limited to communications equipment, dams, power generation, and power transmission infrastructure. 3) Forest stands at high risk of transmitting catastrophic disturbance that threaten the built environment, and where common silvicultural techniques including thinning and prescribed fire can effectively manage risk.

- **Q:** Does the Forest Service want to create CPZs?  
**A:** There is a lot of overlap between Collaborative Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) and Potential Operational Delineations (PODs). The Forest Service can use these to understand more about what is out there and where the gaps are.  
**C:** This would be new management guidelines different from CWPPs and PODs.
- **C:** CPZs have been created in Region 5; the Forest Service should be able to do this within the NWFP area as well.

- **Q:** Is this standard stating the agency must identify values in CPZs?  
**A:** This standard is stating the Forest Service should identify what infrastructure and natural elements are present within the community.

10-5 GOAL: Within identified Community Protection Zones, alleviate Survey and Manage requirements to prioritize goals for community protection and resilience to wildfire, floods, other events. Develop flexibility for logical exceptions to existing Standards and Guidelines in order to support Community Protection Zones.

- **C:** The logical exceptions refer to overlays brought with CPZs, such as LSRs.
- **Q:** Should we include survey and manage in the recommendation? Do we understand what the scope and scale of this would be?  
**A:** This may be an alternative the Forest Service considers.

10-7 GOAL: Facilitate planning for community disaster preparedness and evacuation.

- **C:** This could be included in CWPPs or led locally with state or federal process support.

*Remove Barriers for Adaptive Management Areas (AMA):*

The facilitator started the discussion by reviewing the temperature check survey results for section 11, Remove Barriers for Adaptive Management Areas (AMA). This section consisted of four (4) alternative recommendations and received 17 responses from the Committee. Of the four (4) recommendations, two (2) were supported, one (1) was in formal disagreement, and one (1) was vetoed. The full temperature check survey results can be viewed here, starting on slide 146:

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1177481.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1177481.pdf)

Alt 11-1: The Committee recommends that the Forest Service work to identify, analyze, and consider removing any Standards and Guidelines that inhibit the Forest Service from successfully implementing the original goals of the Adaptive Management Areas under the Northwest Forest Plan. Adaptive management – that delivers timely results and at scale – should be a component of the NWFP Amendment.

*Intent: Onus on FS to identify and remove existing barriers, maintain adaptive management goals within the existing AMAs.*

- **C:** This alternative recommendation suggests identifying and removing barriers within AMAs. The Forest Service should understand what is happening within AMAs through adaptive goals and management.

Alt 11-2: The Committee recommends that the Forest Service embrace the adaptive management concept across a broader planning area, e.g., in AMAs, riparian reserves, and matrix LUAs, re-orienting adaptive management as a core framework for the NWFP region as a whole. In doing so, the Forest Service removes existing barriers to adaptive management actions listed for the AMA LUAs (see for example ideas in Appendix B [AMAs redline document]), and in parallel re-allocates lands within existing AMA LUAs to Accelerated Restoration Areas that in partnership with the matrix LUA meet socio-economic and ecosystems goals associated with working landscapes in line with support for community livelihoods, sustainable wood supply, and ecosystem conservation and adaptation. The focus of adaptive



management projects in AMAs, riparian reserves, and matrix LUAs could include but is not limited to topics of climate change resistance, resilience, mitigation and adaptation; fire adapted landscapes and communities; restoration of non-forested habitats; Tribal co-stewardship for ecocultural restoration; ecological forestry approaches, variable retention harvest, and variable density thinning.

*Intent: Re-orient adaptive management across the Plan region, remove barriers e.g., in redline document, and specifically point to Accelerated Restoration Areas as a new focus for existing AMAs to meet socio-economic and ecosystem goals.*

- **C:** This alternative recommendation embraces AMAs. It reduces the barriers within the areas and builds in flexibility.
- **C:** The agency has historically struggled with all AMAs; 11-1 and 11-2 seem more viable.

Alt 11-3: The Committee recommends that the Forest Service embrace the adaptive management concept across the broader planning area, e.g., in all LUAs (AMAs, riparian reserves, matrix, LSRs), re-orienting adaptive management as a core framework for the NWFP region as a whole. In doing so, the Forest Service removes existing barriers to adaptive management actions listed for the AMA LUAs (see for example ideas in Appendix B [AMAs redline document]). The Forest Service identifies development of a new Adaptive Management Program with engagement from Tribes, communities, agencies, research scientists, interested parties to collaboratively identify a minimum of one core adaptive management project in each Forest unit across the Planning Region.

*Intent: Re-orient adaptive management across the Plan region including ALL LUAs, remove barriers e.g., in redline document, and identify a new Adaptive Management Program with collaborative engagement on at minimum one project per unit.*

- **C:** This alternative recommendation includes everything from alternative 11-1 with the addition of LSRs.

Alt 11-4: The Committee recommends that the Forest Service embrace the adaptive management concept across the broader planning area, e.g., in all LUAs (AMAs, riparian reserves, matrix, LSRs), re-orienting adaptive management as a core framework for the NWFP region as a whole. In doing so, the Forest Service removes existing barriers to adaptive management actions listed for the AMA LUAs (see for example ideas in Appendix B [AMAs redline document]), and in parallel re-allocates lands within existing AMA LUAs to Accelerated Restoration Areas that in partnership with the matrix LUA meet socio-economic and ecosystems goals associated with working landscapes in line with support for community livelihoods, sustainable wood supply, and ecosystem conservation and adaptation. The Forest Service identifies development of a new Adaptive Management Program with engagement from Tribes, communities, agencies, research scientists, interested parties to collaboratively identify a minimum of one core adaptive management project in each Forest unit across the Planning Region.

*Intent: Re-orient adaptive management across the Plan region including ALL LUAs, remove barriers e.g., in redline document, specifically point to Accelerated Restoration Areas as a new focus for existing AMAs, and identify a new Adaptive Management Program with collaborative engagement on at minimum one project per unit.*

- **C:** This alternative recommendation includes all LUAs with adaptive management but also points to accelerated restoration areas for adaptive management and removing barriers.

#### Additional AMA Discussion:

- **C:** Is there a mechanism that builds on or scales up the lessons learned from these areas that can be applied to broader landscapes? Management goals should also be identified, such as fire resilience, climate, Tribal co-stewardship, etc.
- **C:** The problem with AMAs is capacity. Innovation requires more legal compliance. There are two realistic alternatives for AMAs, letting the Forest Service decide how to manage them or return them to the matrix.
- **C:** This type of work does not need to be done solely within the AMAs. A lot of work goes into AMA proposals, however there may not be the capacity to support or fund the research.
- **C:** There is hesitation around limiting and releasing AMAs back to the matrix; some subcommittees have suggested changing the areas' names and how they are managed rather than removing the lines from the map. This would allow the Forest Service to lean into and accelerate restoration goals.
- **C:** This doesn't have to be included in the amendment. This could be addressed in the Leadership Commitments.
- **C:** These areas could be used as climate change adaptation centers. Since AMAs are community-based, this could be a way to engage youth who are focused on climate change and create positive community advantages.
- **C:** Based on the conversation, the Committee seems to be leaning towards alternative 11-2.

#### Closing Remarks

*Meryl Harrell, Deputy Under Secretary, U.S. Forest Service*

*Jacque Buchanan, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service*

*Susan Jane Brown, FAC co-chair, FAC co-chair, Silvix Resources*

*Travis Joseph, FAC co-chair, American Forest Resource Council*

The Committee co-chairs closed the meeting by reflecting on and appreciating the committee's hard work. They are feeling optimistic because of how the Committee showed up this week. The co-chairs thanked Nick Goulette, his team, and the Redding Rancheria Trinity Health Center for hosting the group.

The DFO thanked the Committee for their hard work. The Forest Service cannot give a big extension for final voting, but the DFO is feeling good about the new timeline and approach to finalizing recommendations.

The Deputy Under Secretary acknowledged the Committee has been constructive and meaningful this week. A lot of content was reviewed, but there are shared paths forward. There is a deep appreciation for Nick and his team for the space and hospitality and for the Committee for allowing the Deputy Under Secretary to be a part of the conversation.

***The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.***

*Glossary/Acronyms*

<b>AMA</b>	Adaptive Management Area
<b>BLM</b>	Bureau of Land Management
<b>CWPP</b>	Collaborative Community Wildfire Protection Plans
<b>DFO</b>	Designated Federal Official
<b>EIS</b>	Environmental Impact Statement
<b>FAC</b>	Federal Advisory Committee
<b>LSR</b>	Late-Successional Reserve
<b>LUA</b>	Land Use Allocations
<b>NEPA</b>	National Environmental Policy Act
<b>NFMA</b>	National Forest Management Act
<b>NMFS</b>	National Marine Fisheries Service
<b>NOGA</b>	National Old Growth Amendment
<b>NOI</b>	Notice of Intent
<b>NWFP</b>	Northwest Forest Plan
<b>PPSG</b>	Pacific Planning Service Group
<b>USDA</b>	United States Department of Agriculture
<b>USFS</b>	United States Forest Service
<b>USFWS</b>	United States Fish & Wildlife Service
<b>WUI</b>	Wildland Urban Interface

APPENDIX B

Attendance

**Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) Attendees:**

<b>FAC Member</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Committee Category</b>	<b>Seat</b>
Angela Sondenaar, PhD	Certified Senior Ecologist, Nez Perce Tribe	Idaho	Science	Terrestrial Wildlife Ecology
Ann House, JD	Staff Attorney, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe Environmental and Natural Resources Department	Washington	Government	American Indian Tribes
Betsy Robblee	Conservation and Advocacy Director, The Mountaineers	Washington	Organization	Recreation Organizations
Daniel Reid Sarna-Wojcicki, PhD	Postdoctoral Researcher, UC Berkeley	California	Science	Adaptive Management and Planning
Elaine Harvey, PhD	Environmental Coordinator, Yakama Nation	Washington	Science	Aquatic and Riparian Ecosystems and Species
Heidi Huber-Stearns, PhD	Director, Ecosystem Workforce Program, Institute for a Sustainable Environment, University of Oregon	Oregon	Science	Social Science
James Johnston, PhD	Assistant Professor (Senior Research), College of Forestry, Oregon State University	Oregon	Science	Vegetation Management
Jerry Franklin, PhD*	Professor Emeritus, School of Environmental and Forest Science, University of Washington	Oregon	Science	Forest Ecology
Jose Linares	District Manager (Retired), Bureau of Land Management, Northwest Oregon	Oregon	Organization	Underserved Communities Outreach Organizations

	District and Board Member, Straub Outdoors			
Karen Hans	Good Neighbor Authority Program, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	Oregon	Government	State Governments
Laura Osiadacz*	Kittitas County Commissioner	Washington	Government	County Governments
Lindsay Warness	Western Regional Manager, Forest Resource Association	Oregon	Organization	Forest Products Industry
Meg Krawchuk, PhD	Associate Professor of Landscape Fire, Ecology, and Conservation Science, College of Forestry, Oregon State University	Oregon	Science	Fire Ecology
Mike Anderson, JD	Senior Policy Analyst, The Wilderness Society	Washington	Organization	Wildlife Organizations
Nicholas Goulette	Executive Director, Watershed Research and Training Center	California	Organization	Watershed Organizations
<i>Robert "Bobby" Brunoe</i>	Secretary Treasurer/CEO, Confederate Tribes of Warm Springs	Oregon	Science	Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge
Ryan Haugo, PhD	Director of Conservation Science, The Nature Conservancy	Oregon	Science	Climate Change
Ryan Miller	Director of Treaty Rights and Government Affairs, Tulalip Tribes	Washington	Government	American Indian Tribes
Ryan Reed	Co-founder and Executive Director, Fire Generation Collaborative and Wildland Firefighter	California	Public	Member of the Affected Public at Large
Susan Jane Brown, JD	Principal, Silvix Resources	Oregon	Organization	Forest Collaborative Groups
Travis Joseph*	President/CEO, American Forest Resource Council	Oregon	Organization	Forest Products Industry

Key: *Not in attendance* | \*Virtual attendance

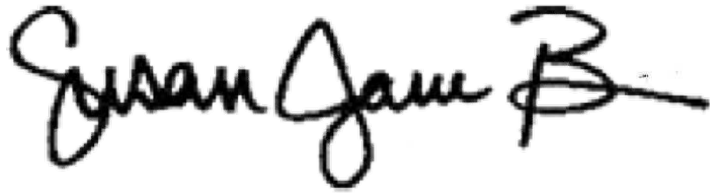
**Planning Team Attendees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
Annie Goode	Director, Pacific Planning Service Group
Candice Magbag Plendl	True Wind Collaborative
Cory Archer	True Wind Collaborative
Delaney Caslow	Resource Assistant PPSG
Dennis Dougherty	Recreation Specialist PPSG
Don Yasuda	U.S. Forest Service
Duane Bishop	U.S. Forest Service
Jackie Groce	Director, Resource Planning and Monitoring
Jacque Buchanan	Northwest Regional Forester
Jen Eberlien	Acting Designated Federal Official
Jennifer McRae	Assistant Director for Planning and Public Engagement
Katie Heard	U.S. Forest Service
Kelly Hetzler	PPSG Tribal Relations
Kimm Fox-Middleton	U.S. Forest Service
Laura Schweitzer	U.S. Forest Service
Meryl Harrell	Deputy Under Secretary, U.S. Forest Service
Michele Miranda	PPSG Public Engagement Specialist
Nick DiProfio	U.S. Forest Service
Priya Shahani	U.S. Forest Service
Rebecca Frus	U.S. Forest Service
Shannon Browne	True Wind Collaborative
Talia Neiman	True Wind Collaborative
Thomas Timberlake	Climate Change and Science Coordinator

**Public Comment**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Don Amador	Motorcycle Industry Council
Timothy Ingalsbee	Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology (FUSEE)
Tom Wheeler	Environmental Protection Information Center
John Elgin	The Lassic Band of Wylacki-Winton Family Group
Tracy Elgin	The Lassic Band of Wylacki-Winton Family Group
Ren Winter	Trinity River Lumber Company
Denise Barrett	Forest Bridges: The O&C Forest Habitat Project, Inc
Nadine Bailey	Family Water Alliance, Inc
Kimberly Baker	Environmental Protection Information Center

Co-Chair Verification

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Jane B". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

5/21/24

Susan Jane Brown

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Travis Joseph". The signature is very stylized and somewhat illegible due to the cursive and overlapping strokes.

May 20, 2024

Travis Joseph