

ADVANCING BENEFICIAL FIRE WITH YOUR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Adapted from recommendations by the Northwest Forest Plan Just Futures Collaborative

Context: The Forest Service's drafted actions (DEIS) feature opportunities to advance beneficial fire use for cultural and ecological purposes. Changing the long-dominant fire suppression regime would be an essential step for healthier forests and Indigenous sovereignty. **Your comment** can help secure what is included in the *final action*!



First, share why you care:

Successful comments are personal! In your comment, let the Forest Service know why advancing beneficial fire matters to you and the Northwest you want to live in. Include life experiences that have helped inform you about why beneficial fire is necessary and valuable (e.g. to the land, your community, etc.).

Then, don't be shy! Dig into details about their decision:

Urge the Forest Service to pass the strongest language:

Alternative B's beneficial fire approach is strongest because of its support of Indigenous cultural burning and co-stewardship agreements.

Action: Call for the Forest Service to "retain the beneficial fire language in **Alternative B** into the final action (FEIS)"

Call for adjusting language to address *these issues* (all that stand out to you):

The Northwest Forest Plan amendment is tiered to the agency's Wildfire Crisis Strategy, meaning fuels reduction for fire suppression may continue to dominate Forest Service fire management.

Action: Call for the Forest Service to "Tier the authorization of beneficial fire use from Indigenous cultural burning, prescribed fire, and managed wildfire to the **Federal Wildland Fire Policy (1995/2001)** and the **growing literature on Indigenous fire use**"

The DEIS lacks analysis on how existing bureaucratic barriers to fire use will be overcome.

Action: Call for the Forest Service to "Incorporate the **Good Fire II Report's Recommendations #3 and #35** to identify barriers to cultural burning and prescribed fire, make clear to agency members that these rights are welcome and encouraged, and remove bureaucratic barriers to beneficial fire inclusion, and managed wildfire during certain conditions."

Beneficial fire could be left out of the toolbox during fuels reduction and wildfire management.

Action: Call for the Forest Service to "Provide spatial fire management information on locations of **Potential Operational Delineations (PODs)** and **fire management zones** where wildfires could be managed for resource benefits, and require that fuels reduction include a **fire use component** (e.g. pile burning and/or broadcast understory burns), with the objective to prepare sites for managing future fire for resource benefit, rather than for fire suppression.