

Green New Deal for Pacific Northwest Forests

Opportunities for Action

The actions below are organized by categories of material actions that can be taken starting today to advance the values outlined in the pillars of a Green New Deal for PNW Forests.

Climate Mitigation

- Establishing a moratorium on commercial logging in existing old-growth and native forest lands in the Pacific Northwest
- Identifying carbon-rich forests to be set aside for the primary purpose of carbon sequestration and storage as a part of our region's, and our nation's climate strategy
- Identifying degraded areas with high carbon sequestration and storage capacity for reforestation and protection
- De-mechanizing forest management to reduce GHG emissions and impacts to ecosystems
- Expanding management directives to include carbon sequestration and long-term carbon storage in addition to wood products and other ecosystem services
- Increasing harvest rotation lengths from short 30-50 year rotations currently used

Climate Adaptation

- Transitioning away from the destructive industrial clearcut and clearcut-style practices and toward practices that increase tree retention after harvest
- Considering big-picture cumulative impacts and managing for entire ecosystems, bioregions and watersheds
- Increase riparian buffers to protect forest waters and habitat and codifying forest management regulations that protect streamflows
- Ensuring protections for forests that provide critical habitat for threatened species who will be further challenged by climate change
- Working with public land managers, private landowners and municipalities to prioritize the protection of drinking watersheds and freshwater resources from industrial logging practices that degrade water quality and reduce water quantity

Forest Lands Restoration

- Restoring young plantations on public lands into dynamic, biodiverse, multi-aged, fire-wise forests through climate-smart practices such as selective, site-specific harvesting
- Repairing degraded forest watersheds through practices such as repairing culverts, protecting forest land surrounding degraded waterways, returning downed wood to streams through tree-topping, snag creation and other methods and combating erosion on

degraded hillsides and steep slopes to reduce landslide, sedimentation and flood hazards to communities

- Using prescribed fire as a tool to remove hazardous fuels and open forest canopy in unhealthy, young plantations and in areas where fire suppression has led to less frequent fires and denser vegetation
- Creating policies to allow wildland fires to safely burn and provide natural thinning and resilience to public lands
- Addressing the spread of foreign pathogens and invasive species through monitoring and restoring forests recovering from pests and blight and working to mitigate conditions that make forests susceptible to these impacts
- Restoring degraded habitat for endangered, threatened and keystone species
- Creating new habitat and corridors of forest connectivity for key species
- Decommissioning unnecessary and unused logging roads, especially in critically impaired watersheds

Economic Revitalization

- Eliminating private contracts for the management of public lands and creating a robust federally employed forest workforce dedicated to education, conservation, restoration, recreation and ecological management of public lands
- Providing a federal forest jobs guarantee: A green job in the forest for anyone who wants one
- End federal, state and local subsidies and tax breaks for industrial logging practices and corporate timber firms, and re-allocate these funds to communities that have historically been tied to timber production by investing in rural education, infrastructure and jobs programs.
- Creating mass job retraining programs to offer workers gainful opportunities to shift from extractive industry to one based on the principles of ecology and the best-available science
- Ending subsidies that support destructive and climate-polluting forest management and redirecting these funds to support small-scale private landowners who practice climate-smart forestry
- Subsidizing the retooling of mills to provide alternative services better fitted to a decarbonized economy
- Instituting polluter pay programs to help bring funds back into the forest economy and to incentivize a Just Transition
- Prioritizing the employment of local community members for localized projects
- Employing more camphosts, park rangers, and recreation-based employees dedicated to maintaining trails, campgrounds and other opportunities for public use of federal and

state lands

Climate and Environmental Justice

- Creating clear, transparent, and accessible processes for public engagement in land management proposals
- Providing funding for Indigenous communities who own forests to de-couple tribal economies from industrial logging on reservation lands
- Creating collaborative, long-term management plans on public lands that prioritize the traditional use of both public and private lands by Tribes
- Working with Tribes to forward priorities for the reintroduction and restoration of culturally significant species including returning salmon to traditional tribal fishing grounds
- Working with Tribes to identify locations of most value to indigenous cultures including places with tribal resources, sacred sites and historically significant land
- Ensuring the outdoors is inclusive and welcoming to all people by making recreation accessible, affordable, and diverse
- Centering justice for marginalized and immigrant forest workers and ensuring they are prioritized, have access to capital and benefit from new worker-managed forest enterprises

Community Resiliency

- Enhancing protections for forest lands in drinking watersheds
- Halting intensive logging practices that increase fire risk and hazard in forest land adjacent to homes and communities
- Creating a robust team of federally employed fire-rangers trained in using prescribed fire as a tool for community defense and climate-smart forest management
- Subsidizing fire-wise homes in the wildland urban interface through science-backed approaches such as home hardening and eliminating hazardous fuels directly surrounding residences and communities
- Working with local planning and land use departments to develop fire-wise zoning and identify fire prone areas to prevent new development in those places
- Building public smoke shelters in all municipal areas prone to wildfire smoke and subsidizing respiratory protective resources for rural and at risk communities
- Banning the aerial application of all herbicides and pesticides

Science-Based Analysis

- Conducting a comprehensive life-cycle carbon accounting system to direct management of public lands

- Requiring analysis of carbon storage and sequestration potential in all forest management plans and proposed alternatives
- Subsidizing comprehensive citizen surveying teams to track forest health and to aid in restoration initiatives
- Monitoring the health of key indicator species, trophic cascades and causal relationships from human activity, climate change and other actors on the environment
- Funding research into climate smart and sustainable alternatives to timber and pulp products
- Creating a workforce to monitor and study fire behavior in the wildland urban interface to help communities adapt to fire using the best science.