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4141 Peppertree Pl.
Corvallis, OR 97330

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November 4, 2007

Bureau of Land Management, Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office
333 SW 1st. Ave.
Portland, OR 97208

re: WOPR

Dear BLM:

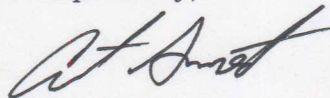
Old-growth forests are a resource that can never be replaced. Once cut, they are gone forever. So many of these forests have already been lost, that we can hardly afford the changes proposed by Bush Administration to use these public lands for private gain.

Most Americans want federal land managers to embrace thinning second growth forests, safeguard communities from wildfire and protect what remains of our nation's ancient forests. Indeed, many Oregon forest managers are already moving beyond the conflicts of the past. By focusing on previously logged public forestlands - many of which are now overgrown and in need of thinning - they are providing wood to local mills while actually improving conditions for fish and wildlife and keeping saws out of precious old-growth forests.

In contrast, the WOPR inflames the controversy by increasing old-growth clear-cutting for a short-term economic fix. The WOPR puts water quality at risk and would destroy some of Oregon's most special places. We should protect remaining mature and old-growth forests on public land, not clearcut these natural treasures.

Please protect remaining old-growth forests, focus active management of BLM lands in already logged-over areas, and create job opportunities in restoration thinning projects that benefit watersheds and generate wood products without multiplying past mistakes.

Respectfully,



Curt Smoot

cc: Oregon Congressional delegation