

Dear BLM,

I am writing to share my concern about the direction the Bush Administration is headed with the management of 2.6 million acres of federal forests under the Western Oregon Plan Revisions. Oregon's wildlands will suffer under this plan, and the designation of 11 new OHV emphasis areas is wildly out of balance with our population's needs. If this plan is followed, it will lead to water pollution, degraded habitat and increased conflict and controversy.

The Bush Administration would place half of the public land that BLM manages – including much of our best old-growth BLM forests – in “Timber Management Areas” to be clearcut every 80 years. The Bush Administration's preferred alternative proposes to clearcut 110,000 acres of Oregon's old growth and build 1,000 mile of new logging roads every decade while creating over 100,000 miles of new Off Highway Vehicle Emphasis Areas – all at the expense of roadless areas, threatened species, water quality and valuable non-motorized recreation. Currently, Oregon attracts many outdoorsman who come to fish our clean rivers, raft those rivers and hike and camp in our backcountry. These types of recreational opportunities contain value in themselves and also coexist with a healthy and resource rich Oregon.

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. Currently, many Oregon forest managers are already moving beyond conflicts of the past. By using our previously logged forests responsibly we can provide wood to local mills while improving the conditions for fish and wildlife by caring for those overgrown lands and keep the cutting out of our ancient forests.

In contrast, the WOPR will flame controversy and legal action by logging old-growth forests for short term economic gain. The WOPR puts water quality and all the benefits Oregon receives from our water quality at risk. Most Americans agree that we should protect and save old-growth forests as natural treasures.

Please protect our water, which will become more valuable as populations grow and water becomes less available, protect our old-growth forests, manage previously logged lands, and preserve our recreational tourism industry. This vibrant industry depends on pristine areas and wise management on the part of our land managers.

As a Jacksonville Resident I pledge to fight the creation of both the John's Peak and Anderson Butte Off Highway Vehicle Emphasis Areas because I feel they are not needed and will create areas that degrade our wildlands rather than preserve them. Additionally, the proposed OHV areas could be dangerous for adjacent rural residents and visitors who use these areas for non-motorized recreation opportunities.

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