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Western Oregon Plan Revisions
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208.

December 8, 2007

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Sirs:

I am again writing to protest the proposed OHV Emphasis Areas which are listed as part of the Bureau of Land Management's Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR). We live on a 40 acre parcel which borders BLM land and is part of the proposed Elliott Creek OHV Emphasis Area (sections 33 and 34) where it extends into the Illinois Valley.

We have lived and worked here for 30 years, and had hoped to enjoy a quiet retirement here. If this area becomes an OHV Emphasis Area it will completely destroy our privacy and our peace of mind and any hope of a quiet retirement by subjecting us to constant noise from OHV users, as instead of the occasional local weekend rider, it will lure countless new riders from outside the area and outside of Oregon. It will also impact hundreds of other residents in our neighborhood and create an unlivable situation for all those who enjoy using the forest for other peaceful activities, such as hiking, horseback riding and bird watching.

Siting an OHV emphasis area here will also be in direct violation of Executive Order 11644 signed by President Richard Nixon on February 8, 1972, which states in Section 3, Paragraph 3, that "Areas and trails shall be located to minimize conflicts between off-road vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands, and to ensure the compatibility of such uses with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account noise and other factors." This area is directly adjacent to an established populated area which will not be compatible with the noise created by the off-road vehicles. Siting an OHV emphasis area here will do nothing but create conflict with the local residents.

It should also be noted that this is productive forest land. Instead of destroying the value of the forest, the BLM should focus on thinning of existing stands to minimize the threat of wild fires and to promote timber. We have had recent experience with wildfire. The Deer Creek Fire in 2005 which started five miles to the west of us actually burned five acres of our land. Our house and the rest of the grounds were saved in part because of the forest thinning that we have done on our own property. Had the BLM land been properly thinned it, too, might have survived in better condition. Turning this into an OHV emphasis area will only increase the threat of wildfires.

Heavy OHV use is damaging and destructive to all areas where it occurs. It threatens wildlife. It muddies streams. It compacts the soil. It promotes the spread of diseases, such as the Port Orford Cedar root rot, brought in on OHV tires from outside the area. And it is incompatible with existing residential areas. For all these reasons and more, we insist that you delete sections 33 and 34 of the proposed Elliott Creek OHV Emphasis Area.

Sincerely,



Sally Scheusner
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P.O. Box 3
Selma, OR 97538

Copy to: Tim Reuwsaat, Medford BLM Chief, Governor Ted Kulongoski, Rep. Peter DeFazio,
Sen. Ron Wyden, Sen. Gordon Smith