



Mayor's Office  
Kitty Piercy

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December 18, 2007

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To Committee Members:

As Mayor of Eugene, I am writing to express my concern regarding the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) recommended Alternative under the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the revision of the Resource Management Plans for the Western Oregon BLM districts. I have had the benefit of a recent presentation on this issue by BLM staff and have seen the options that have been considered. I am also aware of economic and forest health issues that these recommendations are proffered to remedy. I understand the direction the BLM was given that form the basis for your recommendation. We have some challenges to deal with but this is not the way. The proposed logging would change the face of Oregon and would impoverish us in profound ways.

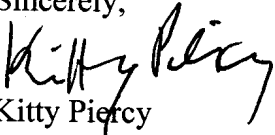
In Oregon, we have an enormous responsibility to be good stewards of forestland for the present and for the future. We have worked hard on this for years at considerable costs to our state and communities because we know the importance of these old growth forests in our ecosystem and the world's. We have kept our eyes on the future and must continue to do so. Such visionary and practical thinking is even more important today than in the past. As we face climate change on a world scale, our job here is to be wise and thoughtful with our resources and our decisions – to do what we can to slow down the warming of our globe.

We are proud of our efforts to protect these forests. They are part of the very livability and character of our state. As Mayor of Eugene, I admire those who lived here and worked hard to safeguard our ancient forests. They knew then, as we know today, the importance of these forests as habitat protections. We are losing species of birds every day in no small number and these forests are essential. We have some of the best drinking water there is. The protection of our watersheds is protecting the future of our community. I have been to many recent meetings that already worry about the scarcity of water in our future. We must be steadfast now in conservation and protection of our precious water. Forests have a fundamental role in that protection.

In Eugene we have an urban forestry program because we recognize the importance of forests to our wellbeing. We have been a Tree City USA for more than 20 years. We know that when people come to Eugene or to our state, it is our natural beauty that invites people to visit, to do business here and to live here. This is not about a small change. This is about a way of life that is at the heart of our people and our economy.

It is simply beyond plausibility that the BLM would even consider cutting down 700% more old growth. I urge your reconsideration of your recommendation for Alternative 2 or any Alternative that would increase logging. We can and should find more sustainable (in the triple bottom line terms) answers such as restorative thinning of previously logged areas.

Sincerely,



Kitty Piercy  
Mayor

Cc: Daylight Decisions