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December 19, 2007

RECEIVED

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

DEC 21 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strongest possible objections to the Western Oregon Plan Revisions. There are numerous serious flaws in the proposed plan which will lead to continued degradation of water and air quality, habitat for wildlife, many forms of recreation, quality of life for residents, and long-term ecosystem health. I will comment on three of these flaws.


Logging of old growth should not even be considered. It increases fire hazard, destroys habitat, and negatively affects watersheds and fish runs. And of course, it destroys what little of Oregon's ancient forests remain for future generations to enjoy. These forests are the rightful heritage of all Oregonians, present and future. The only way to protect them is to prohibit all forms of resource extraction.

Clear-cutting was identified as an irresponsible form of timber harvesting decades ago, leading to soil erosion, increases in invasive species, increased risk of fire as even-aged stands of dense seedlings mature, and numerous other environmental problems. Yet for some reason this plan ignores all these hazards and includes clearcuts as part of the options.

Multiple use of federal lands is an admirable goal so that our collectively owned lands can be enjoyed by many. However, certain forms of use need to be curtailed, not encouraged, because they infringe on the rights of other current users and also harm the environment for future users. I am referring to off-road vehicle use. There are already thousands of miles of logging roads available to motorized vehicles. Motorized vehicles of any sort that go off road increase noise and dust pollution, increase erosion, harm riparian areas, interfere with the behavior of wildlife, disturb residents for miles around, and create scars on the landscape that take decades, or longer, to repair. Wherever ORVs are used, other forms of recreation suffer, for the reasons given above. As our wild areas shrink and development expands, we need to be more protective of natural areas, and strive to improve their natural value, not detract from it.

Please do not adopt this plan. The Northwest Forest Plan as it stands is far superior to this one.

Sincerely,



Andris Olins