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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

I'm writing to urge BLM to reconsider its departure from 13 years of broadly-acceptable old-growth forest management policy in western Oregon as described in the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan. I'm referring of course to changes articulated in the Western Oregon Plan Revisions.

How many times do the citizens of this nation in general and in the West in particular have to reiterate our majority-opinion that remaining tracts of old-growth forest on our public lands should be managed overwhelmingly for conservation values?

Instead of a set of retrograde management and timber-cutting provisions more reminiscent of the 1960s than the present, BLM should:

1. *Avoid any and all clear-cutting in old-growth and mature forest stands. Clearcutting is not appropriate for steep, landslide-prone, high-rainfall areas that characterize timberlands in Western Oregon.*
2. *Maintain, not downgrade, protections for endangered ancient forest plant and animal species.*
3. *Encourage less destructive methods of timber harvest than clear cutting in general. We have abused Western forests for decades, and decades of work to emphasize restoration and recovery of forests, watersheds, and fisheries are required.*

It is not that extractive industries cannot continue on these BLM lands. A radical shift however from the Northwest Forest Plan to the Western Oregon Revisions is a big step backward for western forest management and BLM shouldn't even be considering it.

Thank you for your consideration of these important points,

Erik Ferry