

1527

RECEIVED  
JAN 3 2008

**Old Stage Farm & Newflora Nursery LLC**  
**Gary & Christine Pellett**  
972 Old Stage Rd., Central Point, Oregon 97502 USA  
Tel. 541-772-9153 Fax: 541 245 0503 Email: [gpellett@newflora.com](mailto:gpellett@newflora.com)

Bureau of Land Management  
Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office  
333 S.W. 1<sup>ST</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97208

29 December 2007  
WOPR\_002.ltr

Via, e-mail [orwopr@or.blm.gov](mailto:orwopr@or.blm.gov) and US Mail.

Re: BLM proposed changes in forest management plan.

Dear BLM,  
We have lived and worked in the Rogue Valley for over twenty years. We own an orchard and nursery very close to a BLM managed area. We hike, raft, and fish in many of the areas that fall under the management of the BLM here in western Oregon.

We are very concerned with the direction the management of our federal forests under the Western Oregon Plan Revisions. The changes the Bureau of Land Management is contemplating will unravel the protections of the landmark Northwest Forest Plan, and will lead to water pollution, degraded fish habitat, and increased conflict and controversy.

The Bush Administration would place half of the public land that the BLM manages – and most of our best old-growth BLM forests – in “Timber Management Areas” to be clear-cut every 80 years. The current preferred alternative proposes to clear-cut 110,000 acres of Oregon’s old-growth (120+ years) 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 non-motorized recreation. Shockingly, the proposal ignores the role that these forests play in regulating the climate.

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. Indeed, many Oregon forest managers are already moving beyond the conflicts of the past. By focusing on previously logged public forestlands - many of which are now overgrown and in need of thinning - they are providing wood to local mills while actually improving conditions for fish and wildlife and keeping saws out of precious old-growth forests.

In contrast, the WOPR proposes to inflame the controversy by increasing old-growth clearcutting for a short-term economic fix. The WOPR puts water quality at risk and would destroy some of Oregon’s most special places. We should protect our remaining mature and old-growth forests on public land, not clearcut these natural treasures.

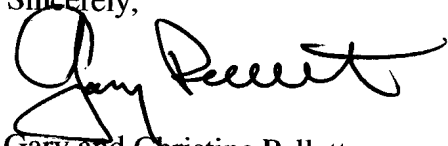
It is disappointing that at a time when public consensus for old-growth protection and second-growth thinning has never been stronger, the BLM is proposing to clearcut forests older than our nation and turn complex ecosystems into tree plantations most susceptible to severe wildfire.

In Western Oregon, the Bureau of Land Management should:

- embrace the scientific management of our dwindling old-growth forests,
- focus active management of BLM lands in already logged-over areas, and
- create job opportunities in restoration thinning projects that benefit watersheds and generate wood products without multiplying past mistakes.

Please keep the focus on protecting our forest.

Sincerely,



Gary and Christine Pellett

CC:

Senator Ron Wyden  
1220 SW 3rd Ave., Suite 585, Portland, OR 97204

Senator Gordon Smith  
121 SW Salmon St., Suite 1250, Portland, OR 97204

Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-4th)  
405 East 8th Ave. #2030, Eugene, OR 97401

Rep. Greg Walden (R-2nd)  
843 East Main Street, Ste 400, Medford, OR 97504

Rep. Earl Blumenhauer (D-3rd)  
729 N.E. Oregon St., Suite 115, Portland, OR 97232

Rep. Darlene Hooley (D-5th)  
315 Mission Street SE #101, Salem, Oregon 97302

Rep. David Wu (D-1st)  
620 SW Main, Suite 606, Portland, OR 97205