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JAN 07 2008

Re: BLM Western Oregon Plan Revisions

Dear BLM,

I am opposed to logging or clearing forests that contain old growth trees/ecosystems. I am concerned with the direction the Bush Administration is headed with the management of million acres of federal forests under the Western Oregon Plan Revisions. The changes the Bureau of Land Management is contemplating with unravel the protections of the landmark Northwest Forest Plan, to water pollution, degraded habitat, and increased conflict and controversy.

The Bush Administration would place half of the public land that the BLM manages-and of growth BLM forests-in "Timber Management Areas" to be clear-cut every 80 years. This seems out of step with sustainable look to the future. The Bush Administration preferred alternative proposed to clear-cut 110,000 acres of Oregon's old-growth trees/forests and build 1,000 miles of new logging roads every decade while creating over 100,000 miles of new highway vehicle emphasis areas-all at the expense of roadless areas, threatened species, water ways and the tranquility of any type of non-motorized recreation. Shockingly, the proposal ignores the role that these forests play in regular climate protections.

A better choice should be the thinning of second growth forests, these forests are over planted and prime areas for fire protection as well as thinning for sustainable forest products and health of the trees left behind. Keep the saws out of old growth areas!

In contrast, the WOPR proposes to inflame the controversy by increasing old-growth clear cutting as a short-term economic and fire fix, neither takes the long term effects in to consideration. We should protect the remaining old-growth forests we have throughout the nation, on all forms of federally owned land. These are treasures for future generations and wildlife.

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

Please protect remaining old-growth forests, focus active management of BLM lands in already logged areas, and create job opportunities in restoration thinning and sustainable harvesting that benefit watersheds of which humans are a part of not an exclusive user. It is time to put on our efforts into new technologies and sustainable timber strategies and start to repair the damage done in past years.

Sincerely,


Sandra Permitz

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