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January 2, 2008

Bureau of Land Management  
333 SW First Avenue  
Portland, OR 97208

RE: Western Oregon Plan Revisions

Dear BLM officials;

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is currently on a collision course with the people of Oregon who truly care about protecting our old growth forests. The BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revision, a scheme to sell to the highest bidder the last remaining old growth forests in Oregon, defies logic.

It is a well known fact that old growth forests are the lungs and the biological filtering systems of the planet. Once destroyed, no anthropogenic plan can replace the loss. The benefits of saving intact old growth forests far outweigh any short-lived economic gain. It has already been established that forest uses go much beyond logging and the timber industry. Recreation, hiking, hunting, fishing, and harvesting of non timber products increase and spread the economic wealth of our forests to a larger segment of society as opposed to the narrow benefit of the timber industry, and do not destroy our forests in the process.

None of the BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revision alternatives is acceptable. The type of logging that the BLM is proposing is criminal and would destroy critical habitat for hundreds of species, threaten water quality in our rivers and watersheds, create hundreds of new roads that would then need to be maintained, cause soil compaction and erosion, damage sustainable ecosystems, and leave our forests vulnerable to catastrophic fires. Older intact forests soak up huge quantities of CO<sub>2</sub>, keeping our planet cooler and more hospitable. We should never sacrifice our ancient forests for a few dollars. To destroy this magnificent treasure bestowed on the Northwest would be equivalent to draining Crater Lake and turning it into a giant amphitheatre.

History will not look kindly on this short-sighted politically motivated ecological disaster. The BLM needs to know that the majority of Oregon's citizens want to preserve and protect all remaining old growth forests. I'm asking the BLM to consider preserving all old growth forests under their jurisdiction for the benefit of all the people and not just a few powerful lobbyists supporting the timber industry.

Sincerely,



Dona Shields  
1400 West Hilliard Lane  
Eugene, OR 97404

CC: Senator Ron Wyden  
Senator Gordon Smith  
Representative Peter Defazio  
Representative Greg Walden  
Representative Earl Blumenhauer  
Representative Darlene Hooley  
Representative David Wu

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