

TEAM MEMBERS

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Thank you for submitting comments on the BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revision Draft EIS. You might want to print this page for your records.

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Comments:

This is in response to BLM comment period regarding the WOPR. First, I would like to ask why is the BLM still directed to follow a 70 year old piece of legislation. (O&C Lands Act, 1937). Is it not possible to override or declare outdated a directive that has become obsolete? The economic view of the Act is out-dated, the science of forestry has changed, property ownership is more diverse, and the population demographics are different than they were in the 1930's - or even the 1960's, 70's or 80's. Trying to fulfill the purpose of the Northwest Forest Plan by basing actions on directives of an act that is no longer economically viable does not seem logical or sound. Providing a "predictable and sustainable supply of timber" should be done based on current up-to-date considerations. The BLM (as well as local communities and state agencies) need to realize we cannot live in the past. We can struggle to maintain PAST revenues from logging or can go forward by formulating better, more sustainable ways to achieve economic goals, realizing that the amount of forested land and available timber has greatly decreased over past decades and will continue to decrease. Logging as much forest as possible now may raise funds for counties in the immediate, but this plan is doomed to fail in the future because the amount of forest is finite and cannot be indefinitely sustained, especially if clear cutting methods are used. Regarding cutting of "old growth" forests, please, please consider that there will NEVER be any more OLD GROWTH!! Logging these forests may bring in revenue now, but not only would these diverse timber-producing forests be gone eventually, an irreplaceable heritage will be lost for future generations and for all time. Properly logging existing younger forests (selective cutting, etc.) will in the long run produce more logs than cutting all the non-renewable, irreplaceable old growth trees. Clear cutting, as would be used almost exclusively in WOPR Alternative 2, is an outdated, scientifically unsound, uneconomical method of logging. Not only does it eliminate diverse, "multi-use" forests, it creates huge environmental impacts by eliminating wildlife, causing erosion and contamination of waterways, creates poor quality single species forests, and worst of all, drastically lowers "fire resiliency" encouraging and even creating an environment for catastrophic wildfires. Please consider maintaining the present management policy rejecting any plans for clear cutting and instead using practices that leave a variety of mature healthy trees. The Plan seems to have many contradictions-- "Preservation of species" cannot be done by removal of old growth trees or clear cutting, and "sustainable logging" cannot be achieved by using outdated science. Thank you for this chance to comment.

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