

January 4, 2008

95187 Elk River Road  
Port Orford, OR 97465

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Western Oregon Plan Revisions  
P.O. Box 2965  
Portland, OR 97208

RECEIVED

JAN 10 2008

Dear BLM,

As a professional forester with 40 years experience working on BLM lands, primarily in Coos County, I've seen the conversion of this magnificent old growth forest from relatively intact fully functioning natural forest to today's commercial tree farm with scattered remnants of old-growth. I've also had extensive experience cruising timber in the vicinity of Weyerhaeuser's Coos River operations and Georgia Pacific's Powers operations. Gone are the days of meeting Weyerhaeuser's huge off-highway Hayes logging trucks and gone are the days of hiking for miles through unbroken old-growth forest. To me it's unconscionable to even consider removing even more of the tattered remains of this ancient forest. To those who say we should resume logging in these little patches, I say if only you had experienced what was once here, I can't believe you'd want to destroy the last of it.

The massive destruction of salmon spawning habitat resulting from the liquidation of the old-growth forest is on its way to healing. But it has a long ways to go, especially with the resumption of clearcut logging in the 40 year old plantations on much of the private lands interspersed with BLM. The reduction of stream buffers proposed in the WOPR will further impact these slowly-healing streams, possibly setting salmon restoration back to square one.

The BLM, that is, the Federal Government has the duty to fully protect endangered species. Back when I was cruising and purchasing the old growth forest no one had even heard of the Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet. The mill I worked for logged about an acre a day. I was their Timber Manager for 7 years. We probably destroyed hundreds of nests and we were a small mill compared to Weyco, GP, Crown Z, IP and many others. It's no wonder the "Fog Larks" as some of the old loggers called them became endangered. Along with the salmon, they spend most of their life in the ocean, but reproduce in the forest. At the same time we were logging the old-growth and wiping out the murrelets, the silver salmon (Coho) were abundant and the fishermen in Port Orford brought hundreds to the dock for many days at a time. But soon we wiped out most of their spawning habitat and they too became endangered. The Federal Government has the responsibility to protect the habitat upon which they depend. The Northwest Forest Plan promised the necessary level of protection. I am adamantly opposed to any reduction in this protection.

Sincerely,

  
Jim Rogers

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS • TIMBER CRUISING & APPRAISAL  
WETLAND DELINEATION • MAPPING • TREE FARM MANAGEMENT



Jim Rogers  
Owner

**ROGERS & ASSOCIATES**

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Specializing in Sustainable Forest Practices

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