

DANIEL M. WISE

BY FACSIMILE AND EMAIL

January 9, 2008

Bureau of Land Management, Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office
333 SW 1st. Avenue, Portland, OR 97208

Re: BLM Western Oregon Plan Revisions

Dear BLM Administrator:

The Northwest Forest Plan was passed in 1994. After a lengthy public input process and significant mediation efforts with all parties, it carefully addressed many of the seemingly conflicting interests in a cooperative solution.

In spite of this historic application of cooperative problem-solving, the Bush Administration and the Bureau of Land Management has proposed a management plan for nearly 2.6 million acres of federal forests which will unravel the protections offered under the Northwest Forest Plan. The Western Oregon Plan Revisions, as proposed, may lead to water pollution, degraded habitat, and increased conflict and controversy.

The WOPR proposal is unacceptable from public policy, public interest, ecological and economic standpoints. The agency proposes to increase old-growth logging on public lands in western Oregon by 700%--unacceptable. It proposes building 1,000 miles of new logging road in the next decade and clearcut at a 9-1 ratio to thinning—unacceptable. It proposes 13 ORV study areas, some of them near residences and others in key ecological areas—unacceptable. This is a myopic and backwards proposal that depletes our natural resource base for future generations by weakening protections for forests, creeks and salmon.

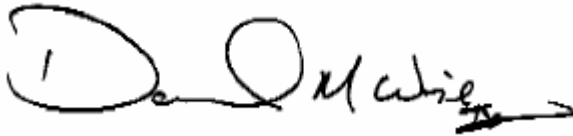
I join the majority of Americans who want federal land managers to embrace thinning second growth forests, safeguard communities from wildfire and protect what remains of our nation's ancient forests. A management focus on previously logged public forestlands—many of which are now overgrown and in need of thinning—would provide wood to local mills and *improve* conditions for fish and wildlife. It would also keep intact precious old-growth forests. This is wise land management and is non-controversial.

In contrast, the WOPR will likely inflame the old controversy by increasing old-growth clear-cutting 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 clear-cut these natural treasures as the WOPR proposes to do. Further we must recognize the role late-successional forests play in removing and sequestering carbon—an essential consideration in this age of global climate change.

I urge you to withdraw the current WOPR and rewrite it with a focus on protecting remaining old-growth forests, active management of BLM lands in already logged-over areas, creating job opportunities in restoration forestry that would benefit watersheds, and preserving, rather than harvesting the last of our old-growth forests. It is possible to generate wood products without multiplying past mistakes, and I urge you to create a plan which does so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel M. Wise". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel M. Wise

CC: Oregon Congressional delegation
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