

January 11, 2008

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

CC: Oregon Congressional delegation

Re: BLM Western Oregon Plan Revisions

Dear BLM,

I am very concerned with the proposed management plan of the nearly 2.6 million acres of federal forests. The changes that the BLM is contemplating will unravel the protections of the landmark Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) and may lead to water pollution, degraded habitat, increased conflict and controversy, lower property values, and higher health risks. In short, it will destroy the quality of life, scenic beauty, and economic opportunities I and my neighbors sought in moving to Oregon.

PLEASE THIN THE PLANTATIONS AND RETAIN THE OLD-GROWTH

Myself, my family, my business, and my neighbors are directly affected by the policy changes. My farm is next door to a BLM lot located within the Evans Creek "Musty Sardines" timber sale.

Our business is equine based. On our property we teach riding skills, train horses and produce multimedia training and equine sales products. We have extremely sensitive horses, as do many of our neighbors. All of these business practices would be adversely affected by large-scale, high-noise logging operations. i.e. regeneration harvesting with no green trees (clearcutting)

We have health concerns for ourselves and our horses. A severe health risk is the particulate matter created by burning of forest slash and debris, produced in large quantities by the WOPR's preferred clearcutting method of harvesting. The deleterious effects of inhaling particulate matter has been widely studied in humans and animals and include asthma, lung cancer, cardiovascular issues, and premature death.^{1,2,3}

Arguments about not meeting timber targets do not ring true as KSWild points out in this excerpt from a scoping letter for the Evans creek (aka Musty Sardines) timber sale.

Timber planners in the Siuslaw National Forest have actually exceeded their NFP timber targets by focusing exclusively on the thinning of second-growth plantations. Attachment #1 to these comments is an editorial from the Oregonian in which the editorial board recognizes the success of the Siuslaw approach and states that "Instead of clawing for more old-growth, the industry should be pushing for more timber sales and a more predictable supply of logs from the tens of thousands of acres of Western Oregon that are covered with too-thick, even-age stands planted 30 or 40 years ago." -- KSWild, "MUSTY SARDINES SCOPING COMMENTS"

While the NFP provides mandates (assuming they are followed) to ensure the timber is harvested in a responsible and scientifically sound method the WOPR seeks to remove these protections for short term financial gain. That proposal is unacceptable.

Fire Hazard and Risk

Please address the conclusions found in the recently published peer-reviewed paper:

Odion, D.C., E.J. Frost, J.R. Strittholt, H. Jiang, D.A. DellaSala and M.A. Moritz. 2004.

Patterns of fire severity and forest conditions in the western Klamath Mountains, California.

Conservation Biology 18(4): 927-936.

I encourage federal land managers to embrace thinning second growth forests, safeguard communities from wildfire and protect what remains of our nation's ancient forests. By focusing on previously logged public forestlands - many of which are now overgrown and in need of thinning - they are providing wood to local mills while actually improving conditions for fish and wildlife and keeping saws out of precious old-growth forests.

Follow Jack Ward Thomas's advice, "Do not spend any more time or effort trying to cut old growth." -- [Sustainability of the Northwest Forest Plan - Dynamic vs. Static Management](#)

Please protect remaining old-growth forests, focus active management of BLM lands in already logged-over areas, and concentrate job opportunities in restoration forestry that would benefit watersheds and generate wood products without multiplying past mistakes.

In conclusion I urge the BLM to begin the process of restoring trust with the

public that your agency is truly interested in healthy forests and providing sustainable wood fiber, rather than simply converting late-successional forests into fiber plantations. There is widespread social and scientific consensus that the BLM can and should be thinning the 6 billion board feet of 12 inch DBH and smaller trees on the District that are located near to the existing road system. Please see the BLM's Small Diameter Material Inventory, December 1, 1999, File Code 2430. We urge you to change course and work with the public to establish truly healthy forests and communities by thinning the plantations that you have already created.

Sincerely,

Martin Usiak
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Rogue River, OR 97537

CC: Oregon Congressional delegation

Senator Ron Wyden

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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

¹ "A Review of the Measurement, Emission, Particle Characteristics and Potential Human Health Impacts of Ultrafine Particles: Characterization of Ultrafine Particles". PubH 5103; Exposure to Environmental Hazards; Fall Semester 2003 course material. University of Minnesota (2003)

² Pope, Arden C; et al. (2002). "Cancer, cardiopulmonary mortality, and long-term exposure to fine particulate air pollution". J. Amer. Med. Assoc. 287: 1132-114

³ "Lymphoma risk in cats more than doubles if owners are smokers", Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association November 1, 2002