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January 10, 2008
1440 N.E. Tenth Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526

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

RECEIVED
JAN 11 2008

Gentlemen,

I am concerned with the direction that the current Administration is headed with the management of nearly 2.6 million acres of federal forests under the Western Oregon Plan Revisions. The changes that you are contemplating will destroy the protections of the Northwest Forest Plan, and will lead to increased water pollution, degraded habitat, and conflict and controversy.

Your proposal is unacceptable. You propose to increase old-growth logging on public lands in western Oregon by 700%, build 1,000 miles of new logging road in the next decade and clear-cut at a 9-1 ratio to thinning. This is a giant step backwards that will deplete our natural resource base for future generations by weakening protections for forests, creeks and wildlife. The proposal ignores the role that forests play in regulating the climate.

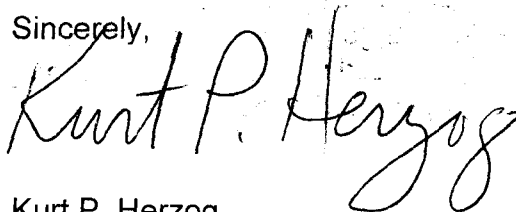
Americans want federal land managers to safeguard communities from wildfire and protect what remains of our nation's ancient forests. By focusing on previously logged public forestlands - many of which are now overgrown and in need of thinning - you could provide wood to local mills while actually improving conditions for fish and wildlife and keeping saws out of precious old-growth forests. It is disappointing that at a time when public consensus for old-growth protection and second-growth thinning has never been stronger, you are proposing to clear-cut forests older than our nation and turn complex ecosystems into flammable tree farms.

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.

Your plan to designate "Off-highway Vehicle Emphasis Areas" is nothing short of pure vandalism! Powered vehicles of ANY sort MUST BE LIMITED to existing roadways. Trails and backcountry should be closed to these noisy, polluting and destructive vehicles. It is becoming almost impossible to find a place in the rural west where one can hear nothing but the sounds of nature.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in planning for the management of the public's land, forests, water and recreation resources.

Sincerely,



Kurt P. Herzog