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January 11, 2008
Dear BLM:

This is an older woman, 90 years old, who has been enjoying all that Oregon's forests have to offer, including benefits from logging revenues. I have a young person typing this letter for me because I don't see so well anymore. He loves to tell me about the huge trees he sees on special hikes in Old Growth Forests. I tell him about all of the trees he will never see. I know logging in the forests is supposed to be self-sustaining, but if the future is anything like the past, this young man's children will never walk in an old growth forest, enjoy fishing in a pristine river or even stretch their arms out around a truly old tree—the old ones make me feel like a spring chicken.

Yes, these old trees die, but what I've seen in old growth forests in my younger years are different kinds of young trees sprouting when the light gets in from a fallen old one and the old ones left nurture the young ones with roots that have all the right fungi and arms that protect them from the harshness of winter.

My friends that know the science of forests tell me that the creatures and mosses and special organisms that inhabit old growth forests are not in the younger forests and we need them to keep diversity in our forests for their health. I always wondered what would happen if the new forests got a disease and all of the trees were alike and nothing was growing underneath because of herbicides, would all of our forests go? No, I'm told, some of the old growth would always survive to give life to a new forest.

I'm especially upset because I'm told that in the BLM WOPR plan logging will take place close to streams and more degradation will happen to the river banks and the fish will not have as much refuge. I ask, have you ever sat by a river with deep forests adjacent and just let all of the cares of the world flow away in the ripples?

Please stick with the Northwest Forest Plan as it was written. I'm told scientists at the BLM agreed then that it was good. Are all of those scientists gone?

I don't want the new BLM WOPR plan. Woodland creatures don't want the new plan. The young man and his future children don't want this plan because it's not good for quality human survival anymore than it is for long term forest survival or for the survival of all of the species associated with old growth forests.

Thank-you for listening.



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