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MEDFORD BLM OFFICE  
Tim Ruesaac / District Manager  
3040 Biddle Road • Medford, OR 97524

Dear Mr. Ruesaac,

***Please do not allow the Western Oregon Plan Revisions Proposal to go forward as it is. It is time for a more responsible use of our natural resources.***

***Protect  
Old-Growth  
Trees!  
  
Practice  
conservation  
-- not  
obliteration!***

WOPR is not a responsible way to maintain and utilize our Oregon forests. Clear cutting should be stopped altogether. A more conservative approach enables us to thin and maintain sustainable, healthy and balanced forests AND still obtain the commodity of lumber which we all use. While there is less profit in a short-term period of time, there is still considerable profit over the long haul. The Grandmother and Grandfather trees need to be protected. Once they are gone -- they are gone! Please save the oldest trees -- they give shade and enable the younger trees to grow faster. THE FOREST IS A LIVING ORGANISM. It needs to be viewed that way. This can be a win-win situation. Practice conservation and balance for the generations to come. I am not saying preserve everything as it is. I am saying ACT RESPONSIBLY. The WOPR is an atrocious mis-use of the natural heritage of our entire nation.

***Do not allow Off Highway Vehicles to devastate the foundation of the forests, which is the soil and the watershed!***

***Protect the soil  
and the fish!***

The rights of a minority of OHV users to upset the balance of nature in sensitive areas by creating the problems outlined below is a lot like smoking in an airplane. Years ago it was standard practice to uphold the personal rights of a single person by allowing them to smoke on an airplane. NOW, we understand how ridiculous it was to allow a minority of people to fill the air we all breathe with smoke.

In particular, OHV use which is proposed in the South Fork Little Butte Creek watershed is inappropriate. The "sticky-muddy" soil type becomes a muddy mess of deep ruts which erodes into the Creek. The South Fork is classified as a "Class A Stream." It goes directly into the Rogue River. Both the South Fork Little Butte Creek and the Rogue River are vital steelhead and salmon spawning areas which need the clear, cold water they produce. OHV designated areas need to be placed away from important watersheds and in a more forgiving soil type altogether. The added realities of the air and noise pollution, the propensity of OHV users to be young males who drink alcohol and who tend to leave garbage all over the place is also notable, but much less important. Let's not let the solution to a current problem become the cause of a much greater problem.

***Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter,***

*Cynthia Cooper*

cc: BLM Oregon State Office  
Senators Wyden + Smith  
Rep. Greg Walden

