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To the BLM WOPR Office,

I am resident of the Little Applegate Valley in Southern Oregon. I am co-landowner of 382 acres of beautiful pasture and forest mostly adjacent to BLM lands. Our farm is designated EFU status and we are beginning to farm this land organically. Because our lives are directly impacted by the forest that surrounds us, I am deeply concerned about the WOPR and the impacts it will have on our community. All that we have read, studied and heard about the various alternative plans in the WOPR LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS BAD FOR US, OUR FORESTS, OUR COMMUNITIES, AND OUR PLANET. Of course, we all know, its good for the short term financial gain of the people who run the big timber companies and may perhaps provide a very short term shot in the arm to our economy. However the debt we will pay for this type of short term gain will be very painful for a lot of people, plants and animals in the not so distant future. We are convinced that the WOPR sacrifices forest diversity and health. We are opposed to each of the alternatives in this plan and we want you to know why.

As we face global warming, we need to protect all of our old-growth forests and manage the forests already cut to mitigate the effects of our changing environment. Forests sequester carbon, the major greenhouse gas. As we deal with 'record rainfalls' and more intense storms, we need to protect our communities from landslides by not clearcutting. **Forests provide a diverse stream of economic revenue beyond lumber**, including tourism, recreation and fishing, as well as ecological services such as water filtration, air purification and soil stabilization. Our area's economy depends on intact forests that attract tourists as well as protect the well-being of us locals.

As a people, we have logged most of the Pacific Northwest's ancient forests in the last 100 years and only 18% remain. The WOPR would boost logging of trees 200 years and older by 700% (KS Wild News). Instead of boosting the logging of old growth, my recommendation is twofold: to make clearcutting illegal and create a mandate with incentives that drive corporate timber to cut sustainably. These ancient forests are critical areas of wilderness that must be protected. No more roads should run through them. Clearly, any plan that advocates the degradation and loss of old growth forests and ACEC's throughout the state to provide timber revenue flies in the face of science, common sense, ethics and the morality that this world needs to heal and carry on. We desperately **need** these areas both for the current and future health and vitality of this entire region of the Pacific Northwest.

Streamside forests also need our support and protection, particularly from loggers but also from pollutants and polluters. *Reduction* of streamside forests to 25 feet on either side is shocking. Riparian habitat already stresses from the effects of previous logging such as erosion from uphill cuts as well as invasive species taking over (Himalayan blackberry, etc.). Himalayan blackberry lines the riparian habitat on our farm and courses through most of our riparian area. Additionally, already severely stressed populations of Salmon would be threatened by a lack of stream buffers that both shade streams and keep sediment from filling streams. The WOPR suggestion that this would be a wise riparian management policy can only be described as "despicable".

beyond words, old growth forests must be preserved: the Moon Prairie Area must remain protected; the Elk Creek watershed must remain protected; the Wild Rogue Wilderness Area must remain protected; all existing, recommended and contested ACEC's should continue to be protected.

## OHVs

Another area of concern are the new OHV areas proposed by the WOPR. OHVs are horrible for forest habitat as well as neighbors. They are loud, they pollute, and they destroy sensitive habitats due to inevitable off roading. The WOPR designates 11 more of these and 10 of those are in the Medford District. **We do not want any more areas for OHVs.**

I live in the Little Applegate Valley. As you may know this is currently designated AMA (Adaptive Management Area). Tragically, the WOPR does away with this designation as we understand it. This relatively wise approach was adopted after years of communities striving for a way to work with the BLM to manage the forests that they live within. Now, the WOPR proposes to eradicate these areas under each and every alternative and do away with this community format entirely. In this regard as well, the WOPR is just not welcome in our community. AMA's should be protected and expanded as a far superior model for long-term forest maintenance.

In conclusion, **NO MORE CLEARCUTS!** Please embrace and promote second growth thinning. Thinning small diameter trees could offer 2 billion board feet of commercially valuable timber if actively thinned while preserving our last, best public lands for generations to come (KS Wild News). Let's get our timber from previously logged public forests with second growth thinning and wipe out severe fire hazards all over the state! That way we can provide wood for the mills, while improving conditions for fish, wildlife and our forests. Please scrap the WOPR entirely! **We want a plan that benefits all of us, not just the timber industry.**

**We can work together to manage this land for generations to come.**

Sincerely,  
Eden Luz  
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