

2599

**JANE MARA, LCSW  
697 Terrace Street  
Ashland, OR 97520  
541-761-7576**

RECEIVED  
JAN 11 2008

January 7, 2008

**BLM, Western OR Plan Revisions Office  
333 SW 1<sup>st</sup>. Ave.,  
Portland, OR 97208**

Dear BLM,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the proposed WOPR plan to replace the NW Forest plan currently in effect.

I know that some folks see forests as lumber yet to be cut, leading to dollars be banked, now. But for others the forests are understood to be necessary for many reasons, among them the health and well being of this region. These forests provide clean creeks crucial for the health of many species of animals and plants, including salmon and humans as well as play a crucial role in regulating the climate, to name only two. I will not go into details of the environmental reasons these forests should remain because I am sure you will get many letters that do that better than I can.

Rather, I want to focus on the economic and psychological health reasons why these forests should not only remain but also be cared for as the precious resource they are.

Economically, these forests are like the goose that laid the golden eggs. Do you remember that fable?

A Man and his Wife had the good fortune to possess a Goose which laid a Golden Egg every day. Lucky though they were, they soon began to think they were not getting rich fast enough, and imagining the bird must be made of gold inside, they decided to kill it in order to secure the whole store of precious metal at once. But when they cut it open they found it was just like any other goose, thus, they neither got rich all at once as they had hoped, nor enjoyed any longer the daily addition to their wealth.

There is more than one moral to this tale:


**Much wants more and loses all or In trying to get more of what you already have  
you can lose everything.  
Greed destroys the source of good.  
Think before you act.**

As our population continues to grow and development increases to keep up with it, forests - and especially Old Growth forests as well as other undeveloped, natural areas - will become scarce, and therefore as valuable as a goose that lays golden eggs. Increasing the cutting of these forests by 700% over the next years, would be cutting open the goose. We would lose all, for the heart of the forests would be dead. Already many jobs are being provided by the tourist and recreation industries, which can only increase dramatically in the coming decades IF the natural areas remain.

Why will these natural places become so valuable as tourist and recreation (re-creation) areas? Because refuge from everyday stress is essential for our physical and mental health. Contact with the natural world is one of the best ways to relieve stress: it offers clean air, water and plentiful opportunities for exercise. Being in natural places renews our spirits. People will always seek them out.

So I implore you. Do not let greed for gain in the present destroy the source of good for decades - even centuries to come. THINK BEFORE YOU ACT and listen to those who are thinking about the future. Be smart! Do the wise thing. Keep the golden goose and stick to the NW Forest plan. Let the WOPR go. You will feel good in your hearts for protecting the source of golden eggs for generations to come.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Mara". The signature is fluid and extends across the width of the page.

Jane Mara