

**From:** [Debra Harrison](#)  
**To:** [BLM\\_OR\\_RMPs\\_WesternOregon](#)  
**Subject:** Protect Old Forests and Clean Water  
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Dear BLM Planning Team:

I feel strongly that we need to preserve all the old growth that is left for the next generations. I personally am deeply nourished spiritually by old growth trees. They convey something that is immaterial but deeply nourishing to the spirit.

As we continue to eat up the natural landscape of America in our industrial plundering, I feel these areas where old forests are allowed to just be left alone will become very desirable places for humans to visit, essential to restore their sanity from an over-stressed civilization.

This next 100 years needs to be about not just conservation of what we have, but restoration of what has been lost.

As you begin to revise planning for our 2.6 million acres of public forests in western Oregon, please protect the remaining mature and old-growth forests. By doing so you will safeguard our water supplies, protect essential habitat for endangered salmon, mitigate climate change, and create new recreation opportunities for the future.

Restoration of degraded BLM forestlands could provide significant employment opportunity in the region. Thinning previously clearcut areas, decommissioning harmful roads and enhancing habitat should be the drivers of the planning revision. In no way, should the BLM forestlands be looked at as the sole source of county funding in western Oregon. This outdated model will only lead to false hope and unfulfilled funding goals.

Thanks for considering my comments as you move forward with this critically important process.

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