

From: [Laura Maurer](#)
To: [BLM_OR_RMPs_WesternOregon](#)
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It was brought to my attention very recently about the public comment period that I fear I have missed, but there are a few things I will share regardless.

It's amazing how powerful experiences in our past can have a lasting effect on lives, and this is so true with an area of BLM forest in the Molalla area, up near Wilhoit Springs.

When I was in high school in the mid to late 70s a teacher took us on a field trip to that forest as an example of a healthy ecosystem providing us a chance to identify the many native species and in my case create a thirst for preserving what little was left untouched especially in that area. As a young teen, this was where I began to understand the need for wild spaces as a learning tool, as food for the soul providing solace in a world filled with struggle.

I have since been back many times to these woods sometimes sharing with friends and family, many times alone and I have witnessed beavers maintaining their home (which was washed away by the 1996 flooding) and owls in the huge firs by full moon light. These were life-changing events for me. As an adult I have explored many areas managed by the BLM and and grateful for these opportunities.

I realize that you are trying to find a balance in these times with the economy of the local community in such dire straits. I still have family in the Molalla area and am well aware of the struggles. In my opinion, it is time for new visioning beyond the old ways. I know of many people who use the Molalla River corridor recreation area and this sort of approach does seem more sustainable.

I do not know the answers for each area and I can only speak to those that I have a relationship. I am grateful for the opportunity to speak and hope that you will be mindful in your decisions. Thank you for this.

Sincerely,

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