

From: [Heather Thornes](#)
To: [BLM_OR_RMPs_WesternOregon](#)
Subject: Please Help Protect Old Forests and Clean Water
Date: Sunday, July 08, 2012 6:02:55 PM

Dear BLM Planning Team:

Hello,

I think we all know by now that a forest is more than just the trees, it is a whole cooperative ecosystem that cannot be simply "replanted". What goes on in the forest affects all of our health and well being.

As you begin to revise planning for our 2.6 million acres of public forests in western Oregon, please consider protecting 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 This outdated model will only lead to false hope and unfulfilled funding goals.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.

I believe that we can create a healthy, happy, and sustainable future for everyone!

Sincerely,
Heather Thornes

Heather Thornes
4809 McKenzie Hwy
Vida, OR 97488