

Camp Forest
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January 10, 2008

Western Oregon Plan Revisions
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

RE: WOPR Alternatives vs Camp Forest and Natural Selection Alternative

Dear Ed Shephard, Dick Prather, and other WOPR Team Members,

We strongly oppose WOPR Alternatives and the damages they would cause to Oregon's forests and communities. Having spent a lifetime experiencing the kinds of forest management that would be used in all WOPR Alternatives, I'm convinced they would systematically destroy the forests that Camp Forest, my family, and community depend on. **We are deeply concerned about WOPR Alternatives.**

The value of Camp Forest, like other properties, is hugely dependent on the value of surrounding properties. Past similar practice indicate WOPR Alternatives would hugely degrade forests wherever they're practiced. BLM lands adjoining Camp Forest would be essentially destroyed from retaining suitable habitats for the species it was intended for. These are needed for restoring and sustaining Camp Forest. **WOPR Alternatives would cause community forest values to plummet.**

Dick Prather has been to one of our shorter tours. Some of the other WOPR members may be aware that Camp Forest uses the same community supported Natural Selection Alternative (NSA) the WOPR Team rejected.

Camp Forest was once cut down and all but completely destroyed about five decades ago. Camp Forest is now one of the best restored forests around and its because we've been using the NSA for more than forty years. The NSA is dependent on older forest species in adjoining BLM forests for this incredibly recovery.

The NSA relies on the thousands of species that created and sustained our forests, the same process that science recognizes as having sustained life on Earth for billions of years. WOPR Alternatives rely on human created tree stand management experiments that have not sustained forests.

WOPR's Alternatives are based on tree stand stocking objectives. Glossary (Page 862): "Forest land: Land at least 10 percent stocked by forest trees of any size, and including land that formerly had such tree cover and that will be naturally or artificially regenerated." "Stocked by forest trees" does not mean stocked by forest species. Defining 'forest land' as "land stocked by trees," incorrectly implies that forest land planted and "stocked with trees," is a forest. **Managing BLM forests around Camp Forest for trees, as proposed in the WOPR, is managing for species extinction.**

Trees and humans require the forest regulatory ecosystem for survival. The NSA retains the species that create and sustain forests, their functions, and their regulatory system, the same regulatory system that sustained life on Earth for billions of years. The WOPR is based on a failed human tree stand management experiment.

The leading cause of Oregon's forest problems is forest management. WOPR Alternatives use the same forest management thinking that destroyed Oregon's forests, including managing forests for tree stocking at the expense of ecosystems that sustain trees. There is no fundamental difference between the forest management techniques used to destroy Oregon's forests, and WOPR's proposed management Alternatives.

Historically these watersheds were naturally covered with beautiful healthy forests and big trees. I know because I'm old enough to have seen them before humans managed them. Private and public forest land owners have cut most of these forests down within the last century, none have been restored to original species and environmental conditions.

BLM's South Deer Project includes three watersheds within the larger Deer Creek watershed, Thompson, McMullen and Reeves Creek. Within these watersheds lies CHU OR-72 that is suppose to protect the species, including spotted owls and red tree voles crowded into this last remaining island of natural old forest. The South Deer Project is where the community requested the NSA, less this CHU, and other smaller islands of intact late successional forests. **WOPR Alternatives would accelerate management that would destroy these last forest remnants that Camp Forest and the NSA South Deer Project rely on to restore healthy forests.**

Camp Forest's old growth forest was cut down in 1938. As the demand for smaller and smaller trees increased, the forest was logged every time someone thought they could make some money. By 1960, this forest had been eliminated. My family is a part of that history. I have a picture of me standing on top of a truck load of logs that I cut from this place in 1951. **We have learned from our catastrophic mistakes, and the WOPR Team needs to learn from their mistakes.**

In 1967, I began developing the Natural Selection Alternative at what later became known as Camp Forest. This is the same Alternative the community supported and the Medford BLM approved for a section of the South Deer Project. It is also the same Alternative the WOPR rejected.

I've witnessed huge climate changes at Camp Forest during my lifetime. Though the NSA has contributed hugely to restoring Camp Forest microclimate conditions, macroclimate changes are now threatening many things. Because forest habitats have been managed to death, we're seeing many species just barely hanging on for survival, increasing numbers of catastrophic forest fires, our frost free season double, ever increasing water droughts, major loss of wildlife, and numerous other forest management caused failures. **WOPR's Alternatives would contribute to worsening all of these environmental conditions which would further adversely affect Camp Forest and other forests in our area.**

The NSA has resulted in the recovery of some species. It will take at least as long as the trees in these forests were old for them to recover, and no one has ever done this. It is critical to forest and human survival that no more forests be liquidated, at least until the ones cut down have been restored, and that will take at least as long as the oldest trees are old. **The WOPR Team has an obligation to develop a**

plan for restoring forests, not a plan for destroying the last remaining forests.

The domestic water source for our residential property at 2100 Thompson Creek Road in T38S, R7W, S27, on the east side of Thompson Creek (the land my great grandfather homesteaded in 1912), and where we live, comes from springs on the easterly boundary of our property at the base of Camp Mountain (named after my father that came here in 1909). Camp Mountain, 3500 feet in elevation, is steep. It is part of the mountains viewed from the Highway 199 corridor some five miles away. Camp Mountain provides outstanding drinking water.

Our domestic water is collected from springs before they surface at the base of Camp Mountain, the same place that my great grandparents collected their water from. Remnants of their house can still be found. This is some of Josephine County's best water. Our spring water runs into Camp Creek a leading coho salmon producing tributary of Thompson Creek. **WOPR Alternatives would hugely adversely affect our domestic water.**

In about 1971, BLM built road 38-7-27.1 and did "selective logging" (much less impacting than many WOPR Alternatives) on Camp Mountain above our springs. Thereafter, every time there was a heavy rainfall the hillside eroded away. The muddy water was redirected from its natural flow down the road to the clean clear water running in Camp Creek (a fish bearing stream). The creek below this point became a stream of brown mud. The mud from this logging, road and stream infiltrated the underground water that serves our domestic water supply.

Road 38-7-27.1 diverts water from several drainage systems to others. As a result major riparian and erosion problems occurred. Some of this road has 3 foot deep ruts from erosion as a result of stream diversion. It took 20 years before nature was able to restore the forest floor to where our domestic water became somewhat reliable again. Still, every time some kind of off-road vehicle uses this road it causes the road surface to start eroding again. Whenever this occurs, the resultant muddy water eventually somehow ends up in Camp Creek and our domestic water supply.

This road was abandoned by BLM soon after logging, and fortunately nature has since restored much of it, some with fifty foot tall trees. This road is now being used as trails for public tours, workshops and educational purposes. This road system is now integrated into a BLM approved six mile trail system. There is huge recreation and education potential in this rare low elevation CHU, not available anywhere else. **WOPR Alternatives would destroy these forest and trail values, and it would restart this decades long nightmare all over again.**

We've been conducting tours and workshops at Camp Forest to educate the general public for more than three decades. We use the trails in this CHU area for tours to show what natural old forests look like, we have discovered that few people have ever seen an old growth forest. Dick Prather has been on a small section of this trail system. **WOPR Alternatives would destroy these natural forest recreational and educational values.**

The domestic water source for our family residential property at 1531 Thompson Creek (where my family first settled in 1909), on the west side of Thompson Creek, comes from springs located on the west side of Thompson Creek in 38-7-21. The water for this place is collected underground from Tuttle Springs (named after my grandparents in 1918), has served this place since the 1800's. According to tests, this water is the best that Josephine County has to offer. South Deer Project forests supply water

for these springs. Past logging practices caused enormous water pollution problems here. **WOPR Alternatives would hugely adversely affect this water.**

The domestic water source for our family residential property at 1670 Thompson Creek Road, on the east side of Thompson Creek in 38-7-21, the place where I was born, comes from springs. The water from these springs has served this place since the mid 1800's. This is the old Thompson place from whom Thompson Creek was named after. My father purchased this property in the 1920s and it has been in Camp family ownership since. The domestic water that serves this property comes from Elmira Springs (named after my mother who carried water from these springs to my home before I was born), is located up North Camp Creek (named after my father). Camp Creek North is a coho salmon producing stream. Every logging event that has occurred above this spring has caused water problems. **WOPR Alternatives would hugely contribute to more degradation of this domestic and coho salmon producing water supply.**

BLM timber sales are not profitable. If a full accounting program was implemented beyond the simple checkbook accounting approach it would show this huge non-profitability. If a Balance Sheet analysis was done before and after timber sales (which is not now being done), it would show that BLM timber sales are not economically viable, and that taxpayers are paying for them. **WOPR Alternatives would continue taxpayer subsidized giveaway forest management practices.**

If biological and ecological forest components were evaluated from a Balance Sheet perspective, it would show one catastrophe after another. This is unfair competition for private forest land owners, small forest product processors, added value cottage industries, and it is not in the community, state or national best interests.

Selling public timber at below cost causes private forest land owners to go out of business. The timber industry subsidy program, is not only putting virtually every private forest land owner out of business, it is destroying forests, and it is destroying human social and economic well being. Putting private forest land owners out of business results in forests being liquidated and converted into non forest uses where they forest consuming lands. **WOPR Alternatives would increase the loss of forest lands to non forest uses. WOPR Alternatives that do not prioritize forest and community biological, ecological and social values over timber industry profits, are not acceptable.**

We survive at Camp Forest because of the NSA. The NSA provides an incredible diversity of resources to choose from to serve us economically. We have our own self loading log truck, our own sawmill, and we avoid the huge costs of transporting raw resources to processors. Before we were able to process logs we transported logs for as much as one hundred miles to processors, now we process all of our own logs. The key to our survival though is the NSA which eliminates all forest management costs. When one resource doesn't pay well we simply switch to one that does. Only roads and equipment have to be managed and maintained, which is relative to use, and that is comparatively very low, again because of the NSA approach. The NSA is why we stay in business and watch forest managers go broke.

The NSA has hugely changed the way we perceive and relate to forests, and the way we see civilization cultures. The NSA reverses the tradition of liquidating forests and never seeing them recover again. The NSA would be a winner for BLM, the community, and forest workers.

Whether or not any resource extraction program is truly sustainable remains to be seen, but we're

convinced the Natural Selection Alternative is the best alternative for leaving our options open. WOPR Alternatives close forest restoration options because they would cause species extinctions.

Forest species recycle. Recycling is essential to sustaining new green plant and tree growth. But humans in civilization extract and don't recycle. We're concerned about how much can be extracted and retain healthy productive forests. **WOPR Alternatives have no insurance against forest failures from over extraction.**

One of the questions the WOPR DEIS should be evaluating is, how much can be extracted before forest failure occurs? The WOPR DEIS claims it's Alternatives will improve forest health, but the DEIS provides no scientifically credible data to support this claim.

While we're not convinced that any forest resource extraction program can improve forest health, we do acknowledge that because of our culture we're forced to rely on resource extraction to provide our needs. The NSA extracts some of the naturally selected resources, and shares the rest with the other forest species. If it is discovered that there is a problem of too much extraction and not enough recycling, with the NSA it is easy to back off extraction and quickly regain the amount of recycling needed to retain and sustain healthy forest ecosystems.

The NSA is a success story, and a true alternative to current WOPR Alternatives that needs to be told. The NSA has resulted in an environment that even the spotted owls have returned to enjoy. **Since the NSA addresses virtually every major social and environmental issue, the WOPR Team has a legal obligation to assess it for possible use in Western Oregon forests.**

Sincerely,

Orville & Mary Camp

CC:

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