

David Paul Bayles  
Photographer

Dear BLM:

I am writing to you today to express my opinion regarding WOPR. My preference is for the 'No Action Alternative' for the following reasons.

1. I live on ten acres in a rural part of Benton County in the foothills of the coast range. I am concerned about watershed issues on lands near me as well as decreased property values that might occur as a result of alternatives 1-3.

2. You have presented only a narrow 'range' of alternatives. There is no alternative that takes conservation into account in any serious manner. Conservation and the growing revenues from the conservation/recreation alliance are good for all the lands we have that are not already managed for timber harvesting.

3. Near where I live there are two major areas of recreation that are heavily utilized – Mary's Peak and Alsea Falls. Your Alternative plans 1-3 would permanently and negatively impact these valuable and treasured resources.

When taking into account my opinion, please consider this. I was a logger for four years. My brother-in-law has a small salvage logging business that supports his family, his son's family and his brother's family. Logging in itself is not bad. Some logging practices are bad. I am against any logging of Old Growth and I am against most clear cut logging. Adjacent to my property lies a piece of land that had been beautifully managed through selective cutting by Starker Forests for many years. Four years ago they decided to clear cut their land. In the windstorms of December 2006, as a direct result of their having clear cut, we lost over one hundred trees. Eight trees hit our house. Our stream was a clogged up mess and trees were criss crossed all over in a tangled patchwork. Out every window on three sides of our home we saw what looked like a bombed out war zone scene. All as a result of clear cutting. And as far as landowners go, Starker is generally a good manager. You cannot tell me that clear cutting serves any good and reasonable purpose beyond higher yield for less money.

I am a professional photographer who concentrates most of his effort on visually exploring our relationship to the tree. From 1987 to 1989 an exhibition of my photographs and oral histories of loggers was displayed in four museums, the last was the World Forestry Center in Portland Oregon. Please have a look at my photographs of trees and loggers on the website listed below, or purchase my beautiful coffee table art book "Urban Forest: Images of Trees in the Human Landscape". Know that I take a balanced look at trees as a source of wood for our human needs with trees as a companion for our spiritual needs.

Thank you,  
David Paul Bayles

PO Box 1799 Corvallis, OR 97339 p 541-929-7979 c 541-760-9696  
www.davidpaulbayles.com david@davidpaulbayles.com