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Bureau Of Land Management, Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office
333 SW 1st. Avenue,
Portland, Oregon 97208
Date 9/12/07
Re: BLM Western Oregon Plan Revisions

Dear BLM,

I am a fourteen year old boy, living in Applegate Oregon. The Medford district, perhaps the most heavily effected by the changes in WOPR's land allocation #2. I have grown up using the BLM lands around me. For biking, hiking, horseback riding etc. Having "wild" land around for anybody has always been what I always thought this country stood for, freedom, right? Isn't having "wild" forest land part of freedom? Shouldn't Americans always be able to see and enjoy the ancient forest our ancestors came to?

It was shocking to me that you the Bureau of Land Management, would propose such an ignorant use of OUR land. Many factors seem to have been blatantly ignored in WOPR. Fire hazard, clean water, endangered wildlife, riparian protection areas lost. You should also consider insects. There is more then spotted owls in jeopardy here. There has been many crisis's that have hit the US at the same time, the housing market crash, the sudden collapse of pollinators in the US and other countries, climate change, (which I found pathetic that you ignored in WOPR) and the economic and political issues that are well known. These forest you plan to log, or as you say "timber management areas", as a short-term fix to the economic issues right now, are habitat to hundreds of known species of native pollinators and other insects. They are a part of this land, aren't we known for protecting endangered wildlife? Or is that an image we wish to give, but not uphold? Other countries have tragically lost rare, important species of wildlife due to misuse and over exploitation of resources. Is that what is going to happen here? We exploit our timber resource at the expense of delicate and often rare wildlife? I should be proud to be American, not embarrassed that we can't even protect our heritage.

I see a very vital mistake you made, perhaps the most important issue with WOPR. This plan proposes to log large portions of the already few remaining stands of old-growth forests. YOU have ignored the future. A mistake that may not effect you, but what of America's youth? In the face of catastrophic issues world-wide would you continue to carve away at our ancient trees, the homeland? This would permanently effect our future.

I am disgusted that the Department of the Interior, of our country we take pride in, would consider this proposal. I once looked up to BLM, you were worthy of praise in my eyes. Protecting our land. I can tell you that that proud image I had is gone.

All I ask is that you consider America's youth when your decision is made. I do not know a better alternative. And I am not responsible for one, YOU are. This directly effects the future generations of Americans. Consider this. Thank you for you time.

Sincerely,

Kelton I. Shockey

6734 Thompson Creek Rd.

Applegate, Oregon 97530 USA

CC: Oregon Congressional Delegation and Governor Kulongoski

Governor Kulongoski Senator Ron Wyden Senator Gordon Smith

Rep. Greg Walden (D-2nd) Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-4th)