

Richard Gorringer, Ph. D.
9111 NE Sunderland
Portland, OR 97211
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Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

To the BLM:

Of the several alternative proposals, I support "No Action", i.e. letting the Northwest Forest Plan stand as is. I oppose BLM preferred alternative #2.

The BLM plans revisions are aptly named WOPR, as in "Whopper," the kind of huge bald-faced lie that is patently dishonest. Preferred alternative #2 laughably claims to "produce the highest economic return to local communities from a sustained yield of timber." Logging on public lands has always been described as "sustained:" it has been anything but sustainable. BLM Preferred alternative (#2) is a plan driven by political hacks, and ignores the preponderance of scientific research. It throws out the Forest Plan and clearcuts three times the old growth forest allowed under the Plan. It basically destroys western Oregon's last ancient forests.

Your own environmental impact statement admits the revisions: would increase fragmentation of the forest; extinguish some plant and fungi species for at least the next 50 years; decrease habitat for the marbled murrelet; decrease spotted owl habitat to 40% less than under the NWFP, in effect decreasing the amount of suitable habitat over the next 50 years; leave only 1/4 the acreage as the Forest Plan managed for water and fish; increase stream temperatures; offer salvage logging and thinning in spotted owl and marbled murrelet areas; allow logging closer to streams, ponds, and wetlands than is currently allowed.

Read your own note on Salvage Logging (from BLM WOPR Vol 2: p. 490-)
Salvage logging can disrupt natural tree regeneration... causes forest degradation as a result of soil compaction, erosion, sedimentation to streams, and the spread of invasive species. The logging does not directly contribute to the ecological recovery of disturbed forests, and, in some respects, impairs or delays ecological recovery. Salvage logging does simplify and homogenize the postdisturbance early-successional forest, and several studies have asserted that structurally complex early-successional forests are becoming increasingly rare and are important sites for any biological and ecological processes.

Studies have shown that logging levels can increase without cutting the ancient forests. By extending to 100 years the expected outcome of your preferred alternative, you ignored the damage that will be cause in the next 20 or 30 years, damage that may not be repairable.

The BLM has a history of not following science, under counting endangered species, and logging in critical environmental habitat. Stop acting like a shill for the logging industry, and start acting like a public agency representing the overwhelming majority of citizens who support the NWFP.

Sincerely,

Richard Gorringer, Ph.D.