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September 25, 2007

Ed Shepard  
State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
333 S.W. 1st Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97204

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Dear Mr. Shepard:

I have heard from County Commissioners and other constituents from several Oregon O&C counties regarding their concerns about the limited opportunity for meaningful public review and comment for the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR). Due to their concerns, and the breadth, complexity and importance of this proposal, I am writing to support their requests for a 120 day extension of the review period.

The WOPR is a voluminous document with huge implications for Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Over 1,600 pages are included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, including 310 tables, 348 figures and 35 maps. Not only is this a massive document that is complex for the public to read, assess and analyze, the conclusions in the WOPR DEIS rely on additional maps, models and related GIS files. The substantial amount of material and data makes it challenging for both elected officials and the public-at-large to provide a thoughtful review within the 90-day comment period. In addition, it has come to my attention that several public outreach sessions were moved with limited notice, resulting in interested parties being denied the opportunity to participate. This underscores the need for additional time for further review and participation in the public process.

I know that a great deal of work has gone into the preparation of the WOPR and that the Bureau of Land Management has invested significantly in preparation of the materials and the accompanying public outreach. As merits such a significant and important effort, I would urge that requests to extend the public comment period be granted.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
United States Senate

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