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Williams (Oregon) Grange No. 399
P.O. Box 121
Williams OR 97544
October 10, 2007

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RE: W.O.P.R. public comment
B.L.M. Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office:

We, the officers and members of Williams, Oregon, Grange No. 399, offer the following comments on the proposed Western Oregon Plan Revisions:

The Northwest Forest Plan (the "No Action" alternative in the WOPR), is better for the citizenry and for the forests of Western Oregon than any of the proposed revisions.

Climate Change should be considered in the development of any revision of the NW Forest Plan. The WOPR proposals take us back to an outdated forestry that has left our forests in poor condition. The proposed revisions decrease streamside buffers. Timber harvest in the narrowed buffers will negatively impact our irrigation and drinking water, just when we are being told to expect less snow pack and less late season water due to climate change.

Likewise, we are now learning climate change will likely impact hundreds of species and habitat zones. For many, the ability to migrate may be the only choice other than extinction. These B.L.M. "checkerboard" forests are a key part of the migration corridors. With what is now known, and the impact the WOPR will have, It is foolish to ignore climate change in evaluating forest policy.

In our immediate neighborhood, the Applegate Valley, we are in an Adaptive Management Area. Under the AMA, new forest management techniques to enhance both fire safety and habitat are being developed. This creates a healthier, more productive forest while providing a more stable type of employment for our forest workers than does the boom and bust cycle of cutting the big timber. We are beginning to learn how to utilize the smaller diameter and non-timber products that these forests can sustainably produce. Applegate valley residents have made a commitment, investing time and money. To pull the plug on the Applegate AMA would be a betrayal of those working for a better forestry under the Northwest Forest Plan. It would also be counterproductive. Better forestry practices are being developed within the AMA framework. The Applegate AMA is a good idea and it is working as intended. Please maintain the Applegate Adaptive Management Area.

The WOPR proposes several off highway vehicle (OHV) emphasis areas in our region. Here we have great biological diversity on fragile, granitic soils that erode easily . The Medford district, and particularly the Applegate Valley, are the wrong place to encourage this use.

The Northwest plan was worked out with considerable effort and public input, and has been reviewed by the courts. These proposed revisions do more harm than good. Any revisions should be subject to a much more thorough review.

Sincerely,
Williams Oregon Grange No. 399

Bill Hernon - Master

Kathy Escott - Secretary