

970 Lakeshore Dr.
Selma, OR
October 11, 2007

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✓ Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office
333 SW 1st. Avenue
Portland, OR 97208

RECEIVED

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cc: Ron Wyden
Gordon Smith
Peter DeFazio
Greg Walden

Dear BLM and my Congressional Representatives:

I am writing to express my apprehension and disgust at the proposed WOPR, and to ask for your help in taking this proposal OFF the table. There is no doubt in my mind that the anti-environmental Bush Administration is fulfilling a pledge to the timber industry for helping Bush to steal two elections in order to seat himself in the White House so he could dismantle as much of our democracy as he could get away with. Sad to say, he's dismantled quite a bit, while complacent citizens, federal agencies, and Congresspeople alike have allowed him to do so. The WOPR is an undisguised ploy to hand over all remaining old growth to the timber industry, despite the efforts by the BLM to state otherwise.

The BLM, in the first place, should by rights have no jurisdiction over our PUBLIC Western forests. They were established to protect the high desert lands of the Midwest and West. These WOPR lands belong under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service, at a minimum. The BLM, by proposing this egregious WOPR, is clearly overstepping its bounds.

At a time when global warming, despite Bush's denials heretofore, is clearly a concern, a proposal to clearcut our remaining PUBLIC forests is clearly not in the best interests of our nation, for a variety of reasons. You strip our Southern Oregon forests of their old-growth canopy, and you increase, RADICALLY, the forests' ability to resist wildfire. BLM/Forest Service efforts should be applied to fire protection on the urban interface of these forests. Cutting to the extent proposed by the BLM would devastate wildlife, indigenous plants, salmon streams; would contribute to further erosion, require HUNDREDS of miles of new roads, and negatively affect clean air standards. The ONLY thing this proposal has going for it is a handoff to the timber industry.

The environmental community here in the Illinois Valley has been fighting these clearcut proposals for decades now. As wild lands disappear rapidly, our peace and quiet disappears along with them. We have here in this Valley an opportunity to put in place a green economy, funded by those millions of Americans who seek the solace and beauty of our national forests each year. As the BLM strips the sanctity of our forests, that opportunity for ecotourism vanishes. The reign of the logging industry is over! Please help us to put a newfound economy to work here in this somewhat impoverished region by appealing to those visitors traveling through our communities

on their way to and from the Oregon National Caves, the Oregon beaches, and Crater Lake. If you strip us of our precious and unique ecosystem, we will have nothing left to offer those who seek the spiritual balance of natural places. I live 10 minutes from the sacred Kalmiopsis Wilderness. Please don't let the BLM destroy what's left of our surrounding natural beauty.

BLM also plans to place over 100,00 ACRES!! into "Off Highway Vehicle Emphasis Areas." PLEASE spare us from the noise, pollution and destruction that would cause to these areas, most of which are adjacent to private residences. How would you like such activity in YOUR backyard?

To allow this BLM proposal to become policy would unravel the hard-fought efforts, of all sides, that went into drafting the Northwest Forest Plan. That landmark agreement, relied on by private, state, and federal landowners to protect threatened old growth species while simultaneously producing timber IN COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS, would be highly compromised by the WOPR. What's the use in enacting such policies, if we then turn around and decimate them? Kind of like signing a treaty with Indian nations which never got honored! Is there any morality left in the decision-makers of this country?

When you cut an old growth forest and replace it with an ugly, monoculture tree plantation, as is the intent of this proposal, you not only destroy Nature's balance in the ecosystem, you INCREASE the risk of wildfire and the amount of carbon in the atmosphere, which places our local communities in greater danger of unnatural fires. Half of BLM forests were clearcut in the past century and converted to these overstocked tree plantations. Their budget should be addressed to thinning these dry and flammable eyesores, not cutting the very trees that can resist dangerous fires. Give those thinnings to those in the timber industry who have some foresight and are retooling to make use of such thinnings.

This WOPR is NOT the way an informed nation should proceed. There are alternative, sustainable ways of logging that truly are in the best interests of "managing" our forests. But orders are coming from the top and the BLM is rubber-stamping those orders.

Now, so I hear, to add insult to injury, the Forest Service is planning to ELIMINATE any public input regarding timber proposals, and also eliminate the standard alternative choice of "no action" when considering timber sales.

Will this be your legacy to our children and grandchildren: not a stitch of wilderness or old growth trees left? I say SHAME SHAME SHAME on those who back this evil proposal. To those Congressional reps to whom this letter is also addressed, if you want my vote in coming elections, you'd better let me know where you stand on this proposal.

With the option of still being able to voice my opinion in this democracy under attack, I remain

Respectfully,

Marilyn Mooshie