r fellow-citizens at the BLM,

OCT 18 2007

I am concerned that the BLM's "preferred alternative" (Alternative 2) in the WOPR does not do enough to protect Western Oregon's fisheries, endangered species, drinking water and communities.

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Desperately needed protections for aquatic habitats would actually be weakened under Alternative 2. Stream buffers would shrink to almost meaningless threads of vegetation, ensuring that streams will be degraded by sediment torn loose by the clearcutting of 140,000 acres (and the construction of over a thousand miles of new roads). There will be no rigorous, scientifically useful review of the effects these insults will have on drinking water quality, biodiversity, and salmon habitat.

For the above reasons, Alt. 2 would make it almost impossible for many BLM logging operations to meet the requirements of the Northwest Forest Plan, Endangered Species Act, and state & federal water quality standards. Alt. 2 is an invitation to lawsuits. It is reckless & irresponsible to waste taxpayer money by enacting a policy so illegally permissive as to force citizens to sue the government to enforce its own rules.

Alt. 2 paints a rosy picture of the economic golden age for Oregon that will be ushered in by trashing its streams and heritage forests. But what about the wealth those forests are already generating for us, unlogged? They cool streams & filter water so that salmon and all the other river creatures can thrive. They purify water for our towns and cities. They are banks of genetic diversity; they fill our nets with fish, our baskets with mushrooms, our hospitals with medicine. They provide work for thoughtful, passionate foresters who can harvest their timber without large clear-cuts; they build our houses. They clean our air and they buffer our homes from wildfire. (Even Alt. 2's own analysis admits that Alt. 2 will make fire a <u>greater</u> danger for those who live near BLM land.)

Picture an Oregon where the salmon are nearly extinct, the air is full of smoke from burning brush on clearcut lands, towns & cities are nearly bankrupted by the cost of water purification, and the timber market is glutted with logs, forcing family foresters out of business. How could that possibly be better than what we have now? Please choose an alternative that will allow BLM lands to comply with existing environmental protections. Sincerely,

Wolfgang Rougle

Wolfgang Rougle
Citrus Heights, CA