RECEIVED
NOV 14 2007

FROM: Gregg Ralston, forest owner
Coldend, Or.

1018

TO: BLM (& FOREST SERVICE);

I am appalled at your proposal to triple the corporate harvest of the public forests which we (the public) own. On every public survey ever taken at least 80% (often as high as 95%) desire to leave all remaining old growth forests intact, protected from logging, mining, and other development. At a time when public awareness of global warming are very high, you propose to liquidate the most viable means of sequestering CO_2 known - growing trees! for short-term profits. Not only is this plan irresponsible in terms of not representing the public's wishes, but it is clearly unsustainable in terms of protecting the balance of nature on which we all depend for our survival. I am sick & tired of the Bush administration's corporate crony appointments (especially the heads of BLM and FOREST SERVICE) and the revolving door that opens for them both before and after they are appointed to public service!

The falling housing market, which had been bloated to unsustainable levels, as well as increased timber imports from Canada, make your plan look even more ridiculous. Obviously, there is no demand for increased timber supplies in the forseeable future. (over)

I can't believe that you would sarifice (steal) our children's heritage to export our valuable resources overseas.

Your plan proposes to further reduce buffers around watercourses and steep slopes which we, the public maintain should never be logged. Friends of mine died in a mudslide caused by BLM mismanagement above their watershed and I am still mad as hell about your asinine arrogance about it!!

You have 45+ years of solid work ahead to thin your mono culture tree farms and that is where all future timber supplies should come from. Most mills have been retooled to handle smaller logs and it's time to keep them busy. A multitude of new jobs could and should be created to thin these plantations to best prevent future fire danger, which the forest service Chief recently conceded will only get more critical in the future from global warming. Your fire salvage scam is laughable, considering that old growth forests nearly always survive forest fires while your overstocked monoculture matchstick plantations never do.

Your flawed plan would also adversely affect tourism, which produces more income from our state than logging.

It appalls me to drive up highway 101 on the coast and see clearcuts on both sides of the road. It certainly doesn't make me want to stop, camp, and spend my money there.

In response to the loss of OWC funds, let me propose (as Peter DeFazio has) that the US Govt (you) pay your fair share of property taxes for the almost half of state lands that you control and profit from and purport to manage. The fact that you don't is why this fund is an issue to local communities in the first place.

Our forest lands are supposed to be managed for many uses, especially recreation, camping and watershed (water supplies for communities) protection and sustainably. Your mismanagement has allowed a few to prosper at the expense of the many - a distinctly un American idea which must change.

Hopefully, the next president will be a Democrat, and his or her appointees to these important posts (heads of the BLM and FOREST SERVICE) will be filled by scientists, not lobbiests for the industries they are supposed to be controlling, but responsible protecters and enhancers of our precious wild lands and their essential habitats.

Sincerely, Peggy Roberts