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To whom it may concern,

This letter represents a collective of individuals living in Cottage Grove, OR who would like to comment on the proposed Western Oregon Plan Revision as proposed by the BLM. In our humble opinion, none of the four alternatives are acceptable because they under-value the whole by over valuing one of its parts, timber.

The current and past policies of the BLM, Forest Service, indeed most of Western Civilization have been exploitative in nature, and perpetuate a worldview that denies intrinsic value to the plants and animals with whom we share this planet. The capitalist economy and the policies of the BLM result in the transfer of public wealth into private hands, which is responsible for the environmental crises we now face such as global warming.

As a society we need a paradigm shift. Not simply a plan that destroys less of one area of land and leaves another swath untouched. We need to manage our forest lands within a paradigm loosely termed Ecoforestry which manages the entire ecosystem. Instead of the relatively quick rotations of industrial forestry which will soon result in the depletion of the soil, ecoforestry does not seek to maximize the extraction of timber but considers the productivity of the entire ecosystem.

Logging is also damaging to mycelia which are essential to the function of conifer root systems which during its life can host symbiotic relationships with over 200 species of fungi. Healing abilities and combatants to disease thrive in the forest, especially in the strength systems of mycelia. By continuing to decimate these strongholds of remedies, we are moving ourselves away from solutions and steadily towards longevity of sickness and suffering (Stamets, 2005).

We reject the conflation of sustained yield with ecological sustainability. The calculus of extracting a maximum volume of timber in a rotation that theoretically will never dip below a maximum volume ignores the qualitative difference between a thriving ecosystem and an intensely managed rotation of cash crops. Anyone with two eyes and a heart can tell the difference between a forest and a plantation.

We the undersigned urge the BLM and any relevant Government Organization to adapt a plan that more closely resembles the "Community Conservation Alternative" as proposed by the Cascadia Wild Lands Project and many other organizations working to defeat this disastrous proposal. "The Community-Conservation Alternative advances the social and economic goals of the Northwest Forest Plan by encouraging active restoration of forests and watersheds, including road decommissioning, road maintenance, stream restoration, prescribed burning, and the careful thinning of plantations to restore them to forest health" (www.cascwild.org).

We urge the BLM to rescind the sustained yield timber harvest requirements or work for their removal through the state legislature.

We urge the BLM to create and maintain permanent protection of late successional forests which provide critical habitat for many endangered species such as the spotted owl.

We urge the BLM to protect and restore all riparian zones that have the potential for supporting forest life and the health of the Salmon and the forests that depend on the nutrients they bring from the ocean.

We urge the BLM to ban the use of herbicides on BLM lands which are poisoning our water, our fish, and our bodies.

In closing we urge the BLM to move toward the use of decentralized and low impact technologies that provide livelihoods to thousands of people and reduce erosion. We encourage the BLM to develop non-timber

products and by implementing county forestry programs that contract directly with county residents so that all revenue stays in the county.

None of these issues mentioned stand alone. Their interconnectedness and importance act as a mirror to the overarching urgency to reevaluate alternatives that do not effectively care for the earth or our own longevity. These words, shouts, and oppositions have been stated before, ignored before, and deliberately disregarded before. It is time to invest in a true alternative, a new paradigm and a more integrated understanding of what we as a people and the earth as system will be losing through this destruction.

Sincerely,

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