November 5, 2007

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BLM WOPR Office
333 SW 1st Ave
Portland OR 97208

Dear BLM WOPR Office:

I am writing in regards to the Draft EIS of the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR). I am a school teacher in Corvallis, Oregon. My husband Paul Howard and I frequently use BLM land for bow hunting, camping and hiking in Western Oregon because it is very accessible for us. Both of us feel stewardship to the public land we use.

We are very concerned over the BLM's "preferred alternative" (Alternative 2). The Alternative 2 would greatly reduce hunting and fishing opportunities through reduced protection of old-growth forest, watersheds and aquatic habitats. In our hunting we have found wildlife use old-growth forest more than tree plantation because of the fewer roads and vehicle disturbance.

The over 1,000 miles of proposed BLM roads would only further reduce hunting opportunities as well as stream buffers, without a rigorous analysis of the harm to community drinking water supplies and salmon habitat. The City of Corvallis gets some of the community drinking water from the well managed Rock Creek Watershed on the eastside of Marys Peak in the Coast Range. BLM should look at this example of watershed management.

The BLM proposed clearcutting and replanting schedule of 140,000 acres in the first 10 years will not meet the test of "sustained yeild". The outdoor recreationist my husband and I talk with all agree western Oregon is becoming warmer and with longer dry spells, making the regrowth of tree plantations uncertain.

The warming climate and longer hot spells creates greater risk of wildland fire. Even the analysis of Alternative 2 points out that BLM forest would become less resilient fire risk, thus increasing the to thousands of rural BLM neighbors in western Oregon. All we have to do is to look at the recent Southern California fires to see what happens when poor landuse and landmanagement policies go astray.

We don't see how the economic gains of Alternative 2 can be completely true. We have seen many mills in Western Oregon shut down due to low timber demands. The current housing slump due to the subprime loan fiasco of the housing market will not create a demand for timber because new homes are not being built as much. As we see it, more public logs will further flood the market and bring timber prices down even more.

Paul and I would like to see protection of old-growth forest and focus on the management and thinning of already exsisting tree plantations on BLM land in Western Oregon. We are not against timber harvesting we simply want it

done in a way that meets the legal implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act and Oregon state water quality standards. The above listed also create excellent hunting and fishing on BLM land!
Thank you for taking the time to read my comments on the "prefered alternative" (Alternative 2) and ~~pleasing~~ please consider revising it.

Sincerely,

Ms. Stacy Drake

Ms. Stacy Drake
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Corvallis OR 97333-1606