

November 13, 2007

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Bureau of land management, Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office
333 SW 1st Avenue
Portland, OR 97208

Re BLM Western Oregon Plan Revisions

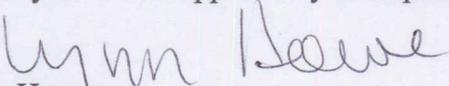
Hello:

Last night I attended a forum in Ashland with panelists from the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, The National Center for conservation Science and Policy, BLM Medford District and The Southern Oregon Timber Industries Association. This two hour session was quite interesting with time for all panelists to outline their positions and concerns and for the audience to comment and ask questions. We were urged to submit our comments to the BLM on the WOPR. We were repeatedly instructed to only give 'substantive' comments which clearly did not mean comment on values, just science.

My comment is all about values and you should be looking for comments on values. I value clean air, clean water, environment suited for native plants and animals, beauty for people living in the area and managed logging (not clear-cutting which in the past has destroyed all of the above). Science only tells you how to do something - it does not tell you what choices the community prefers based on community values. The first thing you need to do is ask the community what we value.

Secondly, there is a mistaken view that the only 'economic' gain from the northwestern lands is from logging trees. We definitely know that good environment, access to fishing and hunting, to winter and summer sports along with clean air draw people to either visit or move into an area. With those people can come lots of economic gains - housing, hotels, restaurants, property tax base, hospitals, shopping, jobs and lots more. These are growing and desirable areas with growth predicted to continue during the next 50 years. You must look at the big picture of economic gains available today from management of our woodlands and stop focusing narrowly on logging (not exactly the most stable form of revenue anyhow). There can be logging but it's not the only bottom line anymore.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.


Lynn Howe
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CC

Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Gordon Smith
Rep. Greg Walden