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14 November 2007

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Bureau of Land Management  
Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office  
333 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.  
Portland, OR 97208

Dear BLM Staff and WOPR Response Reviewers:

I have read considerable material and attended a few presentations relating to the BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revisions. After considering the viewpoints presented, my conclusion remains the same: following the proposed guidelines in the Western Oregon Plan Revisions undermines the strategy set forth in the exemplary Northwest Forest Plan.

The Bush Administration proposals outlined in the new Western Oregon Plan include clear-cutting of old growth forests. Has all respect for the unique role that old growth forests play as stewards of ecological balance been lost? Building 1000 miles of new logging roads every decade and adding over 100,000 miles of new off highway vehicle access will invite rampant threats to the indigent habitat, meaning to the plants, animals and water purity that are vital to the continuation of life in those forested areas. In his context life means the contributions that each entity makes to the entire planet not just to western Oregon timberlands alone.

It seems that a consensus of Americans currently favor protecting old growth areas along with thinning second growth stands. Of late I have read that many Oregon forest managers have already begun to try to productively develop second growth areas by thinning them. The excess timber resulting from those yields is being sent to local mills and correspondingly conditions for fish and wildlife seems to be actually improving. This marvel is happening without causing any destruction to old growth trees and their environs.

Rather than starting on another course to destroy more innocent land, why can't the BLM be satisfied with streamlining its goals to more active management of existing BLM lands located in already logged over areas? Thousands of job opportunities could be generated from restoration and thinning projects in those locales that would seriously benefit watersheds and generate wood products without revisiting and increasing past mistakes or creating new potentially harmful ones.

Hence, I find it unconscionable that the BLM is once again considering to disregard public opinion and to forge ahead with an irresponsible and irreparable plan to clear cut old growth forest areas, stands older than this country, which will consequently ruin complex ecosystems that took centuries to establish. According to the proposed revised plan, once these historic groves are devastated, then the BLM plans to replace them with tree plantations. That solution is a shortsighted one at best. Tree plantations are susceptible to severe wildfires whereas old growth forests are known to resist them.

It seems that nothing can escape economic exploitation. Once again, it appears that the BLM and the Bush Administration are more than willing to endanger water quality, destroy habitat, eradicate national treasures, and eliminate long entrenched and well-functioning ecosystems for a short-term economic surge. I am also confident that some hefty taxpayer consequences will be associated with this revised plan.

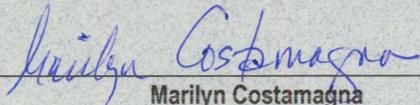
I personally am totally opposed to the BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revision. I think that it [the WOPR] should be removed from consideration for all of the above reasons. I also think that other management strategies such as the following should be considered:

- Take into account and emphasize the protection of species' habitats and air and water quality when planning any type of forest tree thinning in areas open to timber management before any type of sale may be planned

- Reconsider the proposed number of areas and miles that will be designated for off road use. Think of the pollution not only in regards to air and water quality but also to the land and to the indigenous habitat. Consider, too, the consequences of the litter that well meaning off roaders will predictably leave behind. Consider the efforts that many of us are demonstrating on a daily basis to try to help to reverse the trend towards disrespecting and destroying mankind's only home
- Safeguard the old growth forests. Forbid all logging of old growth trees within the 2.6 million acres in question
- Don't further reduce but instead provide ways to enlarge the riparian zones along the creeks, rivers, lakes and ponds and wetlands to ensure the continuation of good water quality and healthy fish and wildlife habitats.

It would be wonderful if government could partner with we, the people, and with groups dedicated to formulating responsible and realistic approaches to timber management. Hence, please consider reevaluating WOPR before it's too late. For once, try to develop a new management approach based on sound scientific principles of forest and timber management that would allow for a steady supply of timber yet safeguard and promote a healthy and flourishing environment. Following that tactic and working as a team with committed scientists, specialists and ordinary people, there would be real human and planetary gain in this effort to maximize the overall good in this proposal rather than just the ubiquitous and polarizing economic ones.

Thank you for you time and consideration,



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