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### Audubon Society of Corvallis

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

P.O. Box 148

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Nov. 15, 2007

Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
333 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.  
Portland, OR 97204

CC: Sen. Ron Wyden, Sen. Gordon Smith, Rep. Peter DeFazio, Rep. Darlene Hooley

We are writing in opposition to the proposed Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR). These revisions would greatly increase logging in the Coast Range at the expense of wildlife (especially spotted owls and marbled murrelets), clean water, salmon, other fish, and tourism and recreation. Particularly objectionable parts of the revisions include

- tripling the amount of logging, including clearcutting 143,000 acres in the first ten years alone;
- cutting some of the last intact low-elevation old-growth forests in western Oregon;
- reducing the areas of Late-Successional Reserves and Riparian Reserves by about half;
- in the process, reducing the width of stream buffers, thus allowing more sediment and warm water in streams and rivers and increasing the risk of landslides;
- relying on the US Fish & Wildlife Service's highly flawed draft recovery plan for the spotted owl, a plan that has made headlines for political interference with the science involved; and
- using deficient models and/or data that predicted no significant impact on fish or endangered species from greatly reduced stream buffer widths and clearcutting of old-growth forest.

The entire WOPR needs to be put through independent scientific peer review. It also needs to consider other management strategies that use logging of small trees (less than 80 years old) to produce a sustainable source of timber. We realize that it is necessary to cut some forests to supply wood products; we just don't need to cut old-growth forest, nor to cut the amounts of it in the places proposed in the WOPR.

Sincerely,

*Christopher L. Mathews*

Christopher Mathews, President

*Patricia Amythe*

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