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BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revisions  
P.O. Box 2965  
Portland, OR 97208

Dear Bureau of Land Management:

I've examined your Western Oregon Plan Revision, and I have to say that it looks like science and public opinion have taken a back seat to corporate interests. All of your alternatives will increase harvest beyond sustainable levels of any reasonable definition of "forest," and all propose clearcutting as the primary means of harvest. If any of these alternatives are implemented, all we would have left would be monoculture tree farms in patchwork growth patterns that would sustain nothing but wood production.

Wood production doesn't have to be done at the expense of everything else. Only when "harvest" means "clearcut" does such a dichotomy arise. Clearcuts have been shown again and again to be the worst method for harvesting timber. They're good only for gaining maximum profit in the short term at the expense of the entire ecosystem. Yet all your choices in the Plan Revision assume clearcutting as the harvest method.

Selective cutting, on the other hand, allows the harvest of mature trees while sparing the forest they're growing in. It preserves the watershed, preserves habitat, reduces fire danger, allows recreation to continue unaffected, and preserves the aesthetic appeal of the Northwest's signature forests—something that affects the general public far more than you give it credit for.

The people of Oregon want sustainable production of timber from forests, not from tree farms. That means less reliance on clearcutting and more use of selective cuts. Until you propose an alternative that uses selective cutting, you haven't done a thorough job in outlining the true alternatives available in managing the BLM's forest lands. We need an alternative that sustains our forests indefinitely, not just a fast track to remove as much timber as possible. Go back to the drawing board, please, and give us a plan that the people of Oregon can be proud of a hundred years from now.

Sincerely,

*Jerry Oltion*  
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