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Bureau of Land Management
Oregon/Washington State Office
PO Box 2965, Portland Oregon 97208

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RE: Western Oregon Planning Revision Draft Environmental Impact Statement

To the Oregon/Washington State Office, Bureau of Land Management (BLM),

After reviewing the BLM's Western Oregon Planning Revision (WOPR) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) online, I am writing to provide my official comment on the DEIS.

I have a number of concerns about the DEIS but first and foremost are the proposed changes in the management of the Northwest Forest Plan reserve system which would allow an increase in logging of old-growth forests and a reduction in protection for threatened or endangered species. These changes would essentially eviscerate the Northwest Forest Plan, a historic and successful compromise in public lands management.

In essence, the Preferred Alternative would place most of BLM-managed old-growth forest into "Timber Management Areas" to be clear-cut after the construction of hundreds of miles of new logging roads and where there would no longer be an emphasis on recovery of endangered species.

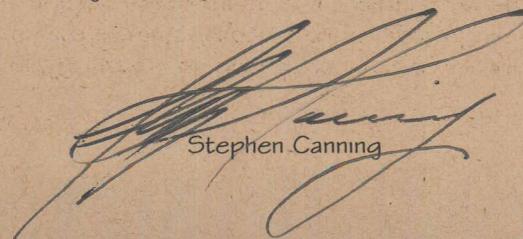
I can see no justification for logging any more old-growth forest on BLM lands. Timber harvest on plantations and other previously-cut lands may be considered a renewable resource but harvest of old-growth is a one-time proposition given the hundreds of years necessary for the regeneration of a healthy ecosystem. The only justification proposed in the DEIS is for short-term economic gain to a relatively small number of people. This totally ignores the long-term loss to a much larger and wider population, including generations to come. The losses from logging old-growth forests are well known and understood but more difficult to quantify in a DEIS than the economic gains: degraded watersheds, loss of species diversification and increased wildfires are just the top of the list.

Instead of reverting to the outmoded and discredited policy of clear-cutting old-growth, the BLM should emphasize forest restoration as the means of meeting the goals of the O&C Act as well as meeting the restoration objectives of the Northwest Forest Plan. Obviously, the Forestland-Urban Interface should be the focus of attention in order to also reduce the likelihood of wildfire losses. Innovation in the utilization of small-diameter trees is imperative. Although not as easy and lucrative as clearcutting old-growth, this is where the BLM and private industry must concentrate efforts in order to meet competing forest management objectives such as recreation and conservation.

Given that the BLM has not provided an Alternative for accomplishing these common-sense and publicly-supported goals, I must support the "No Action" Alternative.

Again, I reject this attempt to circumvent the Northwest Forest Plan. I implore the BLM to resist the political and economic pressure placed on it by the Bush Administration and logging companies and adopt a new public lands paradigm which meets the needs and desires of a majority of Americans rather than only of those interested in their own short-term political and economic advantage.

Sincerely,



Stephen Canning

cc Representative Peter A. DeFazio
Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Gordon Smith