

Bureau of Land Management, Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office
333 SW 1st. Avenue, Portland, OR 97208

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NOV 23 2007

Re: BLM Western Oregon Plan Revisions

Dear BLM,

I read summaries of the BLM Western Oregon Plan, and have also read the summaries of the 4th assessment of The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

I realized that the BLM not only ignored the implications of Global Warming, it has done much to make the situation worse!

Recently hurricanes Katrina and Rita killed 320 million trees in Mississippi and Louisiana. This ecological catastrophe was so massive, that researchers say it will add significantly to the global greenhouse-gas buildup — ultimately putting as much carbon from dying vegetation into the air, as the rest of the nation's forests take out in a year of photosynthesis.

This phenomenon is happening all over the world. As oceans rise, storms will kill more and more trees. At the same time, the world's forests are being clear cut at an unprecedented rate. Old growth forests and tropical rainforests are being decimated and in many areas like Oregon, only 25% of the original forests remain, and those are in danger of being eliminated. We need to stop and reverse this destruction of the world's forests for the good of the entire world.

The BLM plan doesn't provide very many solutions, except for mill owners. Research has shown that diverse, old forests, prevent disease, resist fires, sequesters carbon dioxide, and provides the best habitat for animals and plants.

Turning our forests into a mono-crop, with a single cloned species, is inviting disaster. We now know that Global warming will make Oregon warmer and drier. This will result in an unprecedented increase in disease, insect infestations, and species die offs. A single cloned species is especially vulnerable. Climate change or disease could wipe out all of the Douglas Firs at once, much like Dutch elm disease ravaged the American elm! We should preserve our diverse old forests, and re-plant the clear cuts, and tree farms, with different species, and with more drought resistant trees, so more trees survive the coming changes.

Our water is becoming scarce, and our fish endangered. Competition for water between different agencies, farmers, fishermen, and cities, is already critical. It will get much worse as the glaciers that feed our rivers and streams disappear. Forests generate clean water. We need to protect them and grow more! We need to protect watersheds more, instead of decreasing the buffer zones around streams.

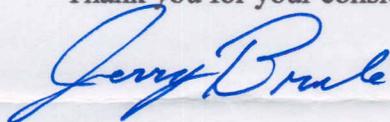
Using herbicides after a clear-cut, to eliminate all trees and vegetation in an area, results in loss of habitat, loss of topsoil, landslides, and pollution of our water. Use of Round-up ready crops, is creating herbicide resistant weeds. The same is happening with the herbicides used after clear cuts, they create more weeds that are harder to eliminate. There are many viable alternatives to clear cuts. One of the best alternatives would be to return to selective cutting of only the diseased or crowded trees. This worked well before. The BLM should use these tools to manage forests, not eliminate them. Clear cutting is like strip mining and is not sustainable.

Instead of more roads, we should remove many of the existing logging roads, because they cause erosion, and land slides. If a sale of logs require new roads, the logging company should pay for the roads, but they should maintain Forest Service, and BLM, standards. The BLM should investigate sustainable small scale logging, like horse logging. This provides more jobs, and protects the environment. We should only cut the diseased trees, or those in need of thinning. Thinning around populated areas will eliminate fire dangers and provide funds for local schools and mills, but clear cuts create additional fire dangers. Old growth forests resist forest fires, clear cuts provide ideal fuel for fires.

Our communities do need more funds, but instead of government handouts, they should advocate a cap and trade carbon offset program, where polluting industries would pay for planting more trees to absorb their carbon dioxide and pollution.

In summary, the BLM should prepare for the environmental disasters, global warming will cause, and try to minimize the damage and perhaps reverse the warming, by planting more and diverse forests, instead of converting old growth forests into tree farms, that will not have the genetic and biological diversity to survive the coming changes. The BLM should think of the future and should increase the amount of old growth forests instead of eliminating the last few in the country.

Thank you for your consideration.

 11-18-07

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