

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

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November 15, 2007

Dear Bureau of Land Management,

I'm writing comments to you about your proposed Western Oregon Plan Revisions, as a landowner in Josephine County for 27 years.

I have attended your Open House meeting in Cave Junction and talked at length with your employees. They told me only "substantial" comments on the specific parts of the plan will make any difference. However, it is nearly impossible to read or understand the enormous and complicated document you have sent out. I will therefore be as specific as time and space allow.

I object to changing the re-classification of old-growth forest reserves, into regeneration harvests, i.e. clear-cuts and plantations. This contradicts what I heard Abbie Josie say, that BLM will cut out only 30% of the canopy on the beautiful forests that surround my valley. These forests in the East Fork Sale unit are precious, healthy legacy forests that my community reveres and needs for their economic future. It would reduce our property values to have our few remaining healthy stands of ancient trees managed, while most of our hillsides are still struggling to recover from fires.

It is bad enough that foreigners are allowed to take all of our mushrooms for their income, and leave decimated and raked over beds behind. Please don't start invading these forests for short term profits, because 90% of Takilma residents surveyed are opposed to logging old-growth trees. We are developing tourism in our town and people come from far and wide to ride horses up in our spectacular forested hillsides. We should be allowed to determine our own economic future.

The headwaters of the East Fork of the Illinois River come from the high Siskiyou in northern California, one of the most protected and pristine watersheds in the Nation. This river provides clean water for all the communities and wild salmon downriver and should not be altered in any way. Your plan reduces riparian protections and allows for destructive practices and logging where it can cause sediments to damage salmon habitat. We need to protect our fish and all the wildlife in the area, not reduce them to "avoiding jeopardy" of extinction.

I'm extremely upset with the huge increase in land allocated to OHV use. This kind of activity is already destroying botanical meadows and areas in our forests and making it easy for marijuana growers, homeless people and

criminals to invade remote areas. We don't want any more roads or allow anymore off-road vehicles to create pollution and noise in this valley. Please designate a few old roads or trails which are not adjacent to homes and sensitive botanical areas and streams for OHV use.

There should be a place for all residents to legally "use" their forest resources, as long as they comply with rules. Firewood resources should be available with a permit, and those users directed to areas which need thinning, or dead trees removed. This would help with the fuels reduction. Restoration projects could leave behind their slash piles for a year, and allow firewood gatherers to remove any fuels they need before the piles are burned responsibly without plastic, or herbicides.

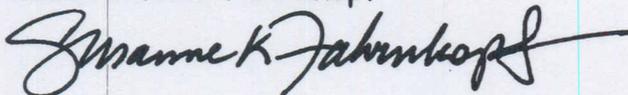
I hope you will concentrate your logging plans on lands which are already designated matrix or managed stands. You can thin these old plantations and prove to us that managed forests can produce healthy crops of timber every 80 years and that the public can trust you to stay in the business of timber farming and not keep cutting into the back country.

I am proud to be a "conservationist"; someone who is committed to the preservation of America's wilderness heritage. I feel very strongly that most Oregonians agree with me at heart, because they wouldn't love it here if they didn't. Clean air and water and country roads have a way of growing on you. It's, after all, what makes us who we are, and what gives us hope for our children's future. We should build our future on putting extra value on our exceptional resources and less on the almighty dollar.

Thanks for listening to my comments.

Sincerely,

Susanne Kindi Fahrnkopf



Takilma, OR

Submitted by:

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Cc: Oregon Congressional delegation