

November 21, 2007

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Mr. Alan Hoffmeister, Public Involvement Coordinator  
Bureau of Land Management  
Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office  
333 SW First Avenue  
Portland, OR 97208

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Subject: The BLM Western Oregon Plan Revision

Dear Mr. Hoffmeister:

When I telephoned you last month to state that I strongly objected to logging any of our remaining old-growth forests you told me I must be more specific, preferably in writing. Since that phone conversation with you I have attended meetings, taken hikes in several old-growth forests and have been doing a lot of reading. No, I didn't read all 1,606 pages of your three-volume impact statement. My concerns about and objections to destroying old-growth forests, as I'll try to briefly outline, are stronger than ever.

The BLM Alternative Plan 2 will be violating the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act as well as having serious adverse affects on the air we breathe. Not only do the spotted owl and the marbled murrelet depend on ancient trees, these entire old growth forests are critical habitat for many, many other birds, animals and plants. This is an entire old growth ecosystem that you are proposing to destroy.

Research shows that water quality tops the list of environmental issues that concern Oregonians and I share that concern and think that the Alternative Plan 2 will seriously jeopardize the health of our watersheds. Not only humans, but the fish and all water species rely on clean water. The plan does not provide the critical protection needed by our watersheds such as leaving more trees and much wider undisturbed buffer zones.

I read where Richard Hardt, BLM forest ecologist, stated that the future was not being mortgaged at all because "We've modeled it out for 400 years." A computer was probably very helpful in this modeling project, but did it include the affects of climate change, population increase (or decrease), natural disasters, disease epidemics, advancements in technology and nation or world-wide economic changes? How can anything be accurately modeled out for 400 years? It is possible that sometime in the not to distant future wood may not even be the preferred building material.

We are told that increased logging is necessary to add additional funds to county budgets, but old-growth logging is not a sustainable solution. Selective thinning of crowded plantation forests is the intelligent long-term choice for economic sustainability as well as creating jobs in long-term alternative energy projects.

Along with my above comments which address just a couple of the more scientific issues, I also think destroying vital and beautiful ecosystems is a crime in itself. I will end with a quote from naturalist John Muir: "When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."

Sincerely,

*Claire Dross*

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Copies to:

Governor Ted Kulongoski

Senator Ron Wyden

Senator Gordon Smith

Representative Peter DeFazio

County Commissioner Faye Stewart