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610 NW 18th St
Corvallis, OR 97330
Nov 26, 2007

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Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon Plans Revision Office
333 SW 1st Ave, Portland, OR 97208

Dear BLM,

I support the no action alternative forest plan because it is best for late successional forest development and hence a variety of wildlife. This stage is particularly scarce in the Oregon coast ranges and westernmost parts of the Oregon Cascades, due to the removal of nearly all old timber from private lands and the extensive wildfires which burned over the coast ranges 70 – 150 years ago. As the BLM lands are concentrated in the above two regions, it is important that they be managed conservatively.

The no action alternative is best for reducing inputs of CO₂ into the atmosphere, as occurs when post-logging slash is burned and the extracted wood products are discarded and decay over the ensuing decades. Fallen old-growth trees take centuries to decay and release their carbon into the atmosphere, with substantial portions retained as decay-resistant soil humus.

The favored plan of accelerated clearcutting of older stands in the already fragmented coast range and Cascade foothills forests is a most short-sighted way of funding county governments. Better that the role of these forests in storing carbon and providing habitat for a variety of flora and fauna be recognized and counties compensated accordingly.

Sincerely yours,
David King
Dr. David King

CC: Representative Peter DeFazio, Senator Gordon Smith, Senator Ron Wyden.