

1166

November 30, 2007

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

RECEIVED

DEC 3 - 2007

Dear Mr. Hoffmeister:

The Northwest Forest Plan and the Roadless Rule, adopted under the Clinton Administration, were imperfect but reasonable responses to finding a balance between timber production and old-growth habitat protection.

Now the BLM, under the Bush Administration, is proposing to return our region to the old days of liquidating so-called "decadent" forests. One of these "decadent" forests is the Wassen Creek watershed, not far from my home. I have hiked in this beautiful, roadless area, and I can easily imagine the erosion, sedimentation, and wildlife habitat degradation that will result if the BLM allows it to be clearcut. What a short-sighted, profit-driven mistake that would be.

A mentality of "get-the-cut-out" still seems to prevail within the BLM. And the proposed Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR) appear to be little more than a gift to timber companies, politically-motivated and then justified with the feeble excuse that the O&C Act requires the revisions.

In my opinion, the sustained harvest mandated by the O&C Act could be achieved with commercial thinning operations in second-growth forests. All it would take is some effective timber cruising and, more importantly, a commitment to real multiple use on the part of the BLM.

I urge the BLM to reject its own preferred alternative under the proposed WOPR and focus instead on a genuine effort to set realistic timber production goals and then meet those goals primarily with second-growth commercial thinning.

Yours truly,



David Schlesinger  
P.O. Box 727  
Yachats, OR 97498

cc: Oregon congressional delegation