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December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007

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

Dear Sir(s):

I'm very concerned that implementation of any of the three (versions) of the WOPR will be a disaster for my community and most western Oregon small communities. We have a desperate need for a sustainable replacement to the O&C funds that we know are disappearing, probably for good. I fear that any of the three proposed options in the WOPR focuses too heavily on fast extraction, and the quick dollars that follow. We need a sustainable economic model of timber management, and I believe we can have it. As a resident of an area that would be heavily impacted by these changes in the timber management by BLM, I prefer the No Action choice, leaving in place the current management model.

I remember that in Seaside fifteen years ago, despair ran rampant among jobless mill workers who believed their jobs lost to the spotted owl fiasco. Their jobs were actually shipped away as whole logs sold to the highest bidder because this extraction model got the owners a much quicker, easier return. The local economy lost out on massive opportunities. I fear a similar result in my southern Oregon home now. If we clear-cut for the quick economic return, we'll leave a mess behind that residents will feel the effects of for decades, and the revenue will *not* be coming into our local economy.

We should instead use a timber harvest model that promotes thinning and soil preservation. It *is* more expensive to log this way, and also more labor intensive. It's also smarter if we want sustainable economic return. The extra labor creates more local jobs, and the extra expense prevents a glut on an already slumping construction market. If we clear-cut and get massive quantities of lumber to market, the price will drop. Since demand has slowed, the return on our lost, unsustainably harvested resource is gone. And has also left behind an expensive mess.

The environmental damage caused by clear-cut models is severe, especially here in my home region. Trees regenerate very slowly in our soils, and if we lose any soil to

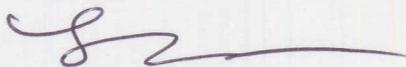
bare hillsides overwintering, the timber-trees won't return in time to be useful to any of us. The lost soil also degrades our water quality enormously. I live on Long Gulch in the Applegate Valley, and the stream in my yard would be filled with debris if there were a clear-cut on the BLM land upstream from me. And not just soil; my yard would fill with brush and branches and mud. I know folks who've had this happen in their yards after clearcuts above their property. I don't want to live in California, where years of stripping hillsides has left them so vulnerable to mudslides and huge fires that it's nearly unlivable.

A clear-cut results in small diameter, dense regrowth of vegetation that can't hold much moisture. In the summer these hillsides dry up and become wildfires waiting to happen. The air quality here during fires is dangerous for those of us with asthma or COPD, and creating more fire danger is just crazy! We need to be thinning and getting revenue from the medium diameter logs, and leaving mature trees to shelter the growth of the next generation of trees. This model prevents catastrophic wildfires, which are unbelievably expensive and dangerous to everyone in the region.

We can prevent extraordinary wildfire and mudslide expenses, court expenses brought by residents who lose water quality or quantity (water runs off a clear-cut and does not percolate in to fill the water table and our wells) and also take advantage of an opportunity to create a lasting useable model of timber management in our western Oregon forests. Please consider the long term effects of a choice to use clear-cut models. Our farming community will suffer loss of water volume, lessened water and air quality, warmer micro-climates resulting from more exposed bare earth, increased fire danger from dense, low regrowth, increased mudslide danger *and* loss of revenue on top of all these expenses. The quick revenue from extreme extraction does not cover these expenses. It's not a good return on our resource; we can do so much better.

Thank you for your time and for considering the voices of those who live in the regions to be managed by this plan.

Sincerely,



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