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BLM
Western Oregon Plan Revisions
Box 3965
Portland, OR 97208

Re: please do not cut old growth trees

Dear Sir/Madam

Quality of life. Oregon. These are often synonymous.

Quality of life is one reason we moved to Oregon twenty-three years ago.

You don't know this, but you folks at BLM manage a key aspect of our enjoyment of western Oregon.

Each weekday morning we walk in one of your patches of ancient forest, where some of the hemlocks, western red cedars, and doug firs are easily 200 years old.

We also appreciate tree farms and personally use a multitude of wood products. But at another level, nothing matches the thrill of being among your BLM "cathedral" trees growing in splendid mixed forest.

Thus I am writing to you to plead that you not cut ancient forest patches. Anything else, but not ancient forest.

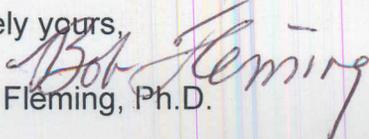
Once cut, this ecosystem will take **at least ten human generations** to reach the forest stage that we now enjoy. Thus, on a practical level, once this forest is cut it is gone forever.

Few people realize how rare these large trees are below 1,500 feet elevation here in western Oregon. Of those trees that were standing when European pioneers reached Oregon only an estimated 1% to 5% have not been cut.

Thus the natural forests nearest to where most west side Oregonians live is already at least 95% or more gone. And timber interests, for admittedly short-term economic fixes, want what is left. I strongly suggest that your responsibility as **stewards of natural resources for ALL Oregonians** dictates you keep ancient forest patches intact.

Thank you, in advance, for sparing "our" wonderful, ancient trees.

Sincerely yours,


Robert Fleming, Ph.D.