

To: Bureau of Land Management

Subject: Comments for Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR)

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I wish to register my complete support of the Sierra Club in efforts to protect our old growth forests. In the past I have been supportive of the BLM but in recent years I have become disillusioned because of the consistent anti environmental policies.

I have enclosed a clip describing the damaging effect of ORV in Idaho. I am concerned about the ~~many~~^{many} areas planned for ORV in this region. Here, as well as in Idaho and Minnesota where I used to live, if more land & more trails are planned for these destructive machines plans must also be made for effective policing of these areas.

The WOPR proposes to inflame the controversy by increasing old-growth clearcutting for a short-term economic fix. The WOPR puts water quality at risk and would destroy some of Oregon's most special places. We should protect our remaining mature and old-growth forests on public land, not clearcut these natural treasures.

It is disappointing that at a time when public consensus for old-growth protection and second-growth thinning has never been stronger, the BLM is proposing to clearcut forests older than our nation and turn complex ecosystems into tree plantations most susceptible to severe wildfire.

Please protect remaining old-growth forests, focus active management of BLM lands in already logged-over areas, and create job opportunities in restoration thinning projects that benefit watersheds and generate wood products without multiplying past mistakes.

Sincerely,

Eugene Rondeau
Signature(s)

Date 12-3-07

Eugene Rondeau
Printed name(s)

IDAHO

The proliferation of dirt bikes, ATVs, and other off-road vehicles in the Owyhee Front area is harassing wildlife, creating ruts, producing erosion that leads to water pollution, and diminishing the peace and quiet sought by most visitors. Located 35 miles southwest of Boise and owned by all Americans, the Owyhee Front offers a great escape from the pressures of daily life in a setting that features steep cliffs, clear streams, and rolling sage-covered hills. Pronghorn, coyotes, birds of prey, and the struggling sage grouse depend on the area. Brad Brooks, a member of our Idaho staff, is cochairing the Owyhee County Recreation Task Force as it seeks to develop a plan that provides for a variety of recreational opportunities while still protecting resources. The task force represents a wide range of interests, including motorized user groups and the federal government, and its members expect to finalize recommendations by late November.

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We are part of a broad coalition trying to limit use of ATVs and other vehicles in the Owyhee Canyonlands.