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BLM Western Oregon Plan Revisions
P O Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

Ref: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Gentlemen;

I have the referenced EIS for Western Oregon Plan Revisions and wish to inform you that it is unacceptable.

Native old growth forests are now about 6-7% of original, and your solution appears to be to substantially cut them them down with the promise to allow seedlings to grow back for three hundred years. This is obviously not sustainable as you can neither provide the climatic or political evidence to assure that this will happen.

I have been following forest policy and practice since the eighties, and have witnessed the promise of sustainability, only to see 300-400 year old trees replaced with 50-60 year old stands. In the process, we have witnessed catastrophic declines in native habitat suitable to maintain northwest ecosystems.

BLM should instead be focusing its efforts on thinning young stands to reduce the risk of wildfires. This would also open up young stands of timber for diverse habitat, rather than the forest deserts that most of these stands are. BLM should finding ways to increase protection of old growth forest stands, and enhance late successional stands to eventually mature into old growth stands.

Regardless of the science that you present, most endangered and threatened species are simply not improving their lot, making it all more important to maintain old growth and late successional stands for their survival.

I request that you choose the "No Action" alternative in the EIS in order to maintain existing requirements in the Northwest Forest Plan for protection of rare, threatened and endangered species, and mature and old growth forests. When you can produce an Alternative that will actually benefit western Oregon, then we can re-visit these forests.

Yours very truly,

Karin L. Keita