

December 10, 2007

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

Re: BLM Western Oregon Plan Revisions

The changes in direction BLM is considering in management of the 2.6 million acres of federal forest land under the WOPR is seriously flawed. These changes will unravel the protection of the Northwest Forest Plan, and will lead to water pollution, degraded habitat and increased conflict and controversy within Oregon.

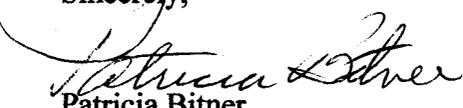
The preferred alternative of the BLM would put half the public land managed by BLM and most of our best old-growth BLM forests in "Timber Management Areas" to be clearcut every 80 years. The BLM proposes to clearcut 110,000 acres of Oregon's old-growth (120+ years old) and build 1,000 miles of new logging roads every decade while creating over 100,000 miles of new Off Highway Vehicle Emphasis Areas. All at the expense of roadless areas, threatened species, water quality and non-motorized recreation.

All this ignores the role these forests play in regulating the climate. Global warming is no longer a theory in question; it is a reality and clearcutting our forests is in direct contradiction to the steps we must take to mitigate it.

The WOPR proposes to increase 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. It is unthinkable that now, when public consensus for old-growth protection and second-growth thinning has never been stronger, the BLM is proposing to clearcut old-growth forests and turn complex ecosystems into tree plantations most susceptible to wildfire.

Please protect remaining old-growth forests, focus active management of BLM lands in already logged over areas, and create job opportunity in restoration thinning projects which benefit watersheds and produce wood products without destroying our remaining old-growth trees.

Sincerely,



Patricia Bitner
1925 E. 26th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97403

cc: Senator Ron Wyden; Senator Gordon Smith; Representative Peter DeFazio