

December 12, 2007

BLM, WOPR Office
333 SW 1st Ave.
Portland, OR 97208

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Dear BLM,

I moved here from the San Francisco Bay Area three years ago. I chose this area because of its natural beauty, primarily the forested areas and natural rivers, creeks and lakes. Many folks pick this area for recreation and retirement for this very reason, bringing their tourist spending and retirement incomes right along with them. Retirement incomes are much-coveted by most state and local governments, and the WOPR Alternative 2 is now jeopardizing this source of income for Oregon's county and state coffers.

I live in Cottage Grove, 20 miles south of Eugene. I imagined getting up many mornings and hiking among the big trees and clean streams. Imagine my dismay when it turned out that I must drive about 40 minutes out to the Brice Creek area in order to have a place to hike on public land. That was about the same distance I had to drive in the Bay Area to be able to hike in the trees – but here, there is “public land” all around me. I just can't access it.

Part of BLM's charter is to make public land available to it's public, for hiking, camping, and other recreational activities, and BLM has mistakenly underplayed its responsibility to the public in this regard. This is OUR land and we should be able to enjoy it. And when I do, I don't want to hike in some second or third-growth plantation forest; I want to experience the trees, the whole ecosystem as it naturally is, not as it has been “structured” by forest managers.

Leave the remaining old growth alone. Open more areas to public access. And if you must manage, manage more of the area so that it will someday grow into mature forest and old growth, so that our grandchildren can experience nature as she truly, organically, is.

Sincerely,



Mora Dewey
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541-767-3826

cc: Gov. Ted Kulongoski, Sens Ron Wyden & Gordon Smith, and Reps. Greg Walden, David Wu, Earl Blumenhauer, Peter DeFazio and Darlene Hooley.