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Eugene, OR 97405

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

Dear BLM,

I am writing to oppose the Western Oregon Plan Revisions proposed by the Bush Administration. As a Watershed and Invasive Species Educator at Oregon State University, I am particularly concerned about the implications of WOPR to the sustainability of healthy communities, natural resources, land owner cooperation, and our economy. WOPR ignores forest best management practices, threatens habitats and the ecological services provided by forests, and undermines The Northwest Forest Plan.

The WOPR ignores science-based best management practices for forest management. Instead of thinning second growth forests and safeguarding communities from wildfire, WOPR proposes clearcut BLM's habitat-rich old-growth stands every 80 years – a practice well known to have negative effect on water quality, habitat, and quality of life.

I find it shocking that in an age where people are increasingly recognizing the economic value of sustaining the functionality of natural resources (for example, intact, mature forests provide clean water, as service that would cost the economy millions of dollars to provide without the help of forests), that the BLM would revert to short-sighted and damaging logging practices. Rural communities may have short-term economic gain, but at the sacrifice of clean water and intact natural resources for all Oregonian, and for future generations.

Finally, I am disappointed that WOPR would act to remove BLM forests from participating in the landmark Northwest Forest Plan. Private, State and Federal landowners rely on this plan to protect Oregon forests (and its ecological services) while still providing for ecologically viable timber production. Oregon's forested landscape is fragmented by different ownership boundaries. The Northwest Forest Plan helps landowners cooperate to manage forests on a larger, landscape, scale to reach sustainable solutions that benefit everyone. By implementing WOPR, BLM would be undermining partnerships and trust gained through the Northwest Forest plan and produce uncertainty for neighboring land-owners.

The WOPR flies in the face of current science and would generate an atmosphere of mistrust and controversy. Please do not implement WOPR. Instead, protect remaining old-growth Forest, 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,



Tania Siemens