

Note: this is not a form letter. The views heresh come from my heart:  
a resident of Oregon & a citizen of the USA -

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Dear Western Oregon BLM,

I am writing to comment and indicate my views on the Western Oregon Plan Revision proposed for the BLM managed forest lands in western Oregon. Although I am writing this letter as an individual, please be aware that my immediate family and many friends, co-workers, and neighbors have indicated that they agree with my opinions on this matter.

As a recent transplant to Oregon from the Midwest for pursuing graduate studies in Biology at the University of Oregon, I am in a unique position to comment on the wild and wonderful state of which I am now a resident. The joy of discovery, fulfillment of scientific and personal curiosity, relaxation, exploration, and admiration of nature that is possible in the wild areas in this state is unparalleled in the continental United States. This attribute alone convinced me to choose Oregon for pursuing my doctorate in Biology, since I knew that here in Oregon I would be able to study at a world-class institution, while living the life of a naturalist; a great combination and a fabulous opportunity to lead a fulfilling life.

However, with the BLM WOPR I fell that many of the reasons that make Oregon such a great place to live, work, play, and pursue education are at stake. While changing the way that the BLM manages is western Oregon forests may provide jobs in the short term, this type of development is short-sighted and will only spur a short-lived economic upturn, ultimately leaving the state poor, unemployed, and stripped of its natural heritage.

To maintain the quality of life of the residents of this state, the nation at large, and the animal, plant, a microbotic inhabitants of the Northwest's forests, scientific evidence overwhelmingly supports, and I feel strongly, that the following tenets should be strictly adhered to in any plan revision that the BLM considers:

1. **No new roads on public forest land.** Roads contribute significantly to erosion, habitat fragmentation, endangered and threatened species disturbance, and ultimately reduce wild areas to playgrounds for motorized vehicles and detrimental human activities. The vast majority of public forest lands in the continental United States contain logging and/or multipurpose roads, and those that are roadless at this point should remain so for ever.
2. **Maintain large aquatic/riparian forest boundaries** in managed timber areas, where no trees are logged, no thinning is carried out, and no roads are built. The aquatic/riparian boundaries should be increased in size on both perennial and intermitted waterways, maintaining a boundary that is at least as wide—on either side of the waterway—as the tallest trees in the stand. Even larger boundaries would be preferable. This boundary is essential for reducing erosion and silting of our rivers, estuaries and waterways, maintaining aquatic habitat and nurseries for permanent and migratory fishes and aquatic birds, and support many threatened species of amphibians.
3. **No Clear Cutting.** Clear cutting on public land leaves the ultimate scar on the landscape, and in the hearts of the public. To maintain a healthy respect and natural admiration for wild areas, the public needs to see as little impact as possible on the landscape during logging operations. Well-managed, high green-tree retention parcels will maintain a semblance of an intact ecosystem, may continue to support the species that inhabited it before the disturbance, and allow for a well-structured, healthy habitat with a diversity of niches and mico-climates after logging. Clear

cutting is completely absurd from ecological, environmental and aesthetic points of view.

4. **Most importantly: No old growth Logging.** The logging of large, old trees is a thing of the past. With the advent of 'green', engineered wood products that are far superior to clear, dense wood products taken from older trees, there is no longer a defensible reason for taking these trees. The value of old-growth trees is no longer in their board-feet, but in their ability to maintain a natural world seemingly untouched by human hands. These old trees inspire wonder and reverence in children and adults alike, provide habitat for countless species, create ecosystem diversity, are fire-resistant on their own, and control erosion. These trees cannot be replaced. **Any section of forest on public land that has not yet been logged should never be logged.** All timber production should be relegated to small areas of intensely managed forests, preferably on private lands, where small trees are turned over quickly for high-quality engineered wood products of superior quality to old-growth timber

The outdated mindset of boom-and-bust frontier exploitation is over. We have enough evidence now to know that we can never replace, replicate, or recapture the services that the natural world provides for our quality of life. As a new resident of the great state of Oregon, I am saddened that changes to BLM land management that decreases the quality or quantity of wild areas are being considered.

The value of the state of Oregon is not in its timber production, but in its wild lands that have served, and will continue to serve its residents, Americans, and the world by providing glimpses into a historic, wild and scenic land. The benefits of low impact recreation, ecotourism, solitude, and scientific discovery depend on our state's untouched wild areas. Oregon's incredible beauty, limitless bounty, and habitat for the threatened animal and plant life of the Pacific Northwest will be lost forever under the preferred WOPR alternative.

Please take my comments into consideration and work to increase protection for Oregon's wild lands in any avenue the BLM chooses to pursue. Most importantly, eliminate completely any strategies that include the logging of old-growth forests

Thank you,

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