

December 27, 2007

Bureau of Land Management, Medford District  
Butte Falls Resource Area  
Attn: John Bergin  
3040 Biddle Road  
Medford, OR 97504

1515  
RECEIVED

JAN 02 2008

**RE: WESTERN OREGON PLAN REVISION (WOPR)  
INTENT TO SUE, DELIVERED VIA CERTIFIED MAIL  
JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON MAP #353W05 TAX LOT 1600**

Dear Mr. Bergin,

Thank you for taking the time recently to discuss the logging plans for the East Evans Creek area. As we discussed, I just became aware that the BLM plans to log the 122.8 acres just to the south of our home. I have numerous concerns about logging that area, which fall into two broad categories – the actual logging process, and the aftermath.

The process of logging presents these issues in this populated area:

- Many of us have livestock, some of which are sensitive to heavy equipment and helicopters.
- Logging trucks cause traffic, noise, and safety concerns.
- The noise of chain saws, helicopters, logging trucks, etc. will disrupt the neighborhood for weeks or months, and is an unreasonable intrusion.
- I've spent a lot of time on BLM lands recently, and have noticed vast swaths of land where chemicals have been dropped by air to defoliate all broadleaf vegetation, leaving just the conifers. All the madrone trees and other vegetation are killed. It would be virtually impossible to contain an aerial application of this defoliant to the property in question, should this method be used. What are the chemicals used? Have they been tested for carcinogens? Do they cause other health issues, whether by skin contact, inhaling, or as a result of leaching into the water supply?

Once the logging is completed, several concerns are raised:

- Animal habitat reduction / elimination (including elk, bald eagles, and the northern spotted owl, all of which I have seen on the named property).
- Elimination of plant species variation (madrone trees, etc.)
- Reduction of property values.
- Logging will cause erosion on the very steep hills on this particular parcel. What erosion control measures will you put in place once the natural barriers have been removed?
- Effects on East Evans Creek and the fish that it contains.
- Environmental concerns. Have you completed an environmental study specific to this area, which differs greatly from other areas in the WOPR?
- The leftover logging slash is highly flammable. If you control burn that slash, the smoke will irritate the residents for weeks, causing health issues for some.

In addition to these concerns, I am in whole hearted agreement with the significant issues with the WOPR raised by the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center and the "Recommendations From the Jackson County WOPR Core Group On the BLM Draft EIS Western Oregon Plan Revisions".

Here is what the Sierra Club has to say about President Bush's "Healthy Forests Initiative":

### **Debunking the "Healthy Forests Initiative"**

The Healthy Forests Initiative (HFI) is President Bush's response to the past year's forest fires. The initiative is based on the false assumption that landscape-wide logging will decrease forest fires.

This premise is contradicted by the general scientific consensus, which has found that logging can increase fire risk. This disconnect between what the administration says and what science says about logging and fire reveals the administration's true goal which is to use the forest fire issue to cut the public out of the public lands management decision making process and to give logging companies virtually free access to our National Forests. The HFI, if fully enacted, would:

1. Limit environmental analysis and limit public participation by (a) excluding environmental analysis for any site-specific project the Forest Service and BLM claim will reduce hazardous fuels, including post-fire salvage projects; and by (b) limiting public participation by allowing "hazardous fuels reduction projects" to be categorically excluded and suspends citizen's rights to appeal projects.
2. Accelerate aggressive "thinning" across millions of acres of backcountry forests miles away from communities at risk to forest fires.
3. Uses 'Goods for services' as the Funding Mechanism by (a) allowing the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to give away trees to logging companies as payment for any management activity, including logging on public lands; and (b) creating a powerful new incentive to log large fire-resistant trees, old growth, and other commercially valuable forests.

This note from the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center web site also points to clear mismanagement by the Bush Administration:

Bush Proposes to Clearcut Oregon's Heritage - BLM Releases Draft Plan, and it's a Whopper! Shocking new plans were just announced to ramp up logging on 2.6 million acres of public land in western Oregon by clearcutting old-growth forests and reducing protections for salmon-bearing creeks and streams. A sweetheart legal settlement between the timber industry and the Bush Administration led to the plan, which is the gravest threat to Oregon's remaining ancient forests in years.

The Bush administration views the Medford BLM as a model for their fire rhetoric. Therefore, it is a key area where increased public pressure must be mounted. The Medford BLM provides an excellent opportunity to expose the so-called "model" for what it truly is - a plan to deny citizen involvement and increase commercial logging on public land.

The 1976 National Forest Management Act requires that forest plans "provide for the diversity of plant and animal communities." Can you forward me a copy of your forest plan for this area that addresses that legal requirement? Surely, any jury would not consider the destruction of a natural forest to be in compliance with this plan.

Your stated intention to leave 6 to 8 trees per acre (leaving approximately one tree per 7200 square feet) is not forest management; it is an outrageous abuse of our natural resources and constitutes a willful breach of duty.

**Please be advised that I intend to sue the BLM and whichever logging company purchases the logging rights to the property identified above.**

We expect reasonable responses to each of the questions posed above prior to any logging, as required by law.

Sincerely,



Ted & Ginger Wilson  
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Rogue River, OR 97537  
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