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292 Clinton St.
Ashland, Oregon 97520
December 28, 2007

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

Re: BLM Western Oregon Plan Revisions

Dear BLM:

Despite my background in policy research, I found the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR) extraordinarily difficult to make sense of, and I cannot help but wonder how many citizens concerned about preserving our old growth forests and reducing clearcutting, could actually understand that the plans proposed by the BLM dramatically increase clearcutting and do not protect our forest heritage. Most Americans want federal land managers to embrace thinning second growth forests, safeguard communities from wildfire and protect what remains of our nation's ancient forests. The preferred plan presented in WOPR does not accomplish these goals. Instead, it is a document designed primarily to increase logging profits at the expense of old growth preservation and biodiversity, and without regard to protecting wildlife habitats and streams.

I am not against logging, and I support efforts to reduce fire danger to populated areas. But I do oppose clearcutting and logging of old growth forests, and I believe that the majority of people in Oregon understand that our forest heritage can be protected and still accomplish sustainable logging harvests. Why doesn't the BLM understand this? I assume that this document reflects policies of the Bush administration, which has consistently promoted short-term commercial interests as opposed to protecting biodiversity and long term sustainability.

Please protect the remaining old-growth forests, 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 destroying old growth areas and biodiversity. There are numerous models for logging secondary growth forests while protecting our forest heritage. BLM needs to show leadership in accomplishing this. Unfortunately, the current plans under discussion do not provide the protection of our heritage that is needed.

Sincerely,



Stephen D. Auerbach

CC: Oregon Congressional delegation

Senator Ron Wyden
1220 SW 3rd Ave., Suite 585, Portland, OR 97204

Senator Gordon Smith
121 SW Salmon St., Suite 1250, Portland, OR 97204

Rep. Greg Walden (R-2nd)
843 East Main Street, Ste 400, Medford, OR 97504