

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

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Dear BLM,

This letter is to register my comments on BLM's WOPR. First of all, there is too much information contained in the WOPR to be deciphered and responded to by concerned Oregonians by the (new) January 11th public comment deadline. This deadline needs to be extended at least until May 2008 when the US Fish & Wildlife Spotted Owl Recovery Plan is expected to be available.

I have concerns about watersheds and water quality. BLM owns 704 miles of stream listed as "water quality impaired" under Section 303d of the Clean Water Act. Alternative 2 of the WOPR will negatively impact these already impaired streams by reducing riparian buffers to 100 ft. and allowing logging withing 25 ft. of banks; allowing yarding corridors in Riparian Management Zones; eliminating intermittent stream buffers; and adding up to 1000 miles of roads.

I am concerned about the logging of ancient forests. Alternative 2 approximately doubles logging of Oregon's rare old forests and eliminates it over a decade. It also reduces LSRs by 467%. This will unnecessarily and negatively impact endangered species habitat, recreation and tourism in Western Oregon.

WOPR;s Alternative 2 job loss figures appear flawed in that they minimize effects of the global economy and timber/sawmill automation on jobs, and do not adequately represent jobs that might be retained and gained in recreation and tourism sectors under the no-action alternative. More time is needed to adequately research this area. These figures also do not give adequate consideration to jobs created if thinning management strategies, as demonstrated in USFS practices, replace current large patch cuts. Between 1979 and 1989, the NW Douglas Fir region lost more than 25% of its mills, and more than 34% of its workforce.

I have concern for wildlife and wildlife corridors. I live near a 40 acre parcel of old forest owned and managed by BLM. I see Spotted Owl on my property and I know that they travel the area between many of the BLM old forest patches west of Cottage Grove. The BLM alternative plans do not take this into account. The plan and alternatives call for increases in fragmentation that will impede or prevent movement of many species from the ocean to the Western Cascades. This is unacceptable.

Please consider the opinions and concerns or the local people like myself who live next to these BLM forests, as well as the watersheds and water quality in our communities, and the wildlife with whom we share the forest. I urge you to take more time to consider options that will support the public need financially and support healthy forests and healthy communities.

Thank you for your time and hard work,

Sincerely,

Devon Bonady
Cottage Grove, OR