January 2, 2008

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Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon Plan Revisions
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

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RE: Please Protect Oregon's Forests

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR).

I am writing because the low mountains of the coast and southwest Oregon are home to some of the most spectacular forests in the country, rain-drenched coniferous forests that offer scenic views and provide some of the most productive salmon habitat in the lower 48 states.

These public lands are enjoyed by the young and old alike who seek out the towering old growth, clean water and abundant recreational opportunities that Oregon's western forests provide to its visitors. They should remain protected under the Northwest Forest Plan.

I am deeply concerned about the 2.6 million acres of forest managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Oregon. The BLM is moving forward with the Western Oregon Plan Revision, which will increase logging in Oregon's old-growth forests sevenfold by clearcutting in currently protected old growth forest reserves and sensitive salmon bearing rivers and creeks.

Ancient forests in Oregon serve as an important carbon storage and sequestration resource to help mitigate global warming. The BLM's plans for increased logging in these ancient forests under the Western Oregon Plan Revision will take America backwards in efforts to prevent global climate change. Clearcutting and damage to soils from logging has been shown to release tremendous amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, while old forests absorb and store carbon dioxide.

BLM has the opportunity to be a good neighbor to the citizens of Oregon state, and America, and protect the valuable resources that exist in western Oregon's public forests.

BLM's alternatives, as presented in the WOPR DEIS, do not reflect the values held by most Oregonians and Americans for protecting what is special about our public lands.

I urgently ask that BLM develop a supplemental DEIS that seriously considers and evaluates an alternative that protects all remaining old growth forests and keeps the late successional reserves and aquatic protections currently in place with the Northwest Forest Plan intact.

To properly manage the many resources of the western Oregon public forests, it is urgent that BLM:

- Preserve the rare, remaining old growth and protect key watersheds to help restore the endangered Pacific salmon instead of reverting back to 1970s forest management style of old growth logging.
- Look at all of the values of this land: water quality, recreation, timber, wildlife and wilderness rather than just the value of currency in exchange for old growth logging.
- Manage the land to protect the quality of life these special places provide us and the economic advantage provided by living close to and enjoying these public forests.

The supplemental alternative should also expand and maximize recommendations for protecting areas for their wilderness qualities and give utmost consideration to wilderness proposals, such as the Wild Rogue proposal submitted to BLM.

Oregon ancient forests deserve permanent protection and should be managed to maintain important public assets such as clean drinking water, habitat for fish and wildlife, diverse recreation opportunities, stunning scenery, and jobs in forest restoration, fire safety and tourism.

I am concerned that the changes the BLM has proposed in its Western Oregon Plan Revision will lead to the loss of Oregon's irreplaceable ancient forests, water pollution, degraded habitat, and increased conflict and controversy.

Thank you for your help to protect remaining old growth forests, focus on restoration management of BLM lands and develop a supplemental DEIS that reflects the values of good stewardship.

Respectfully,

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