

1703

January 7, 2008

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

RECEIVED

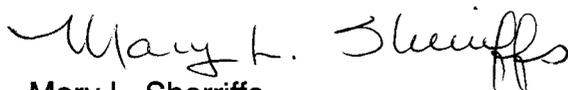
JAN 09 2008

We describe our earth as the "water planet" in recognition of the importance of fresh water to life in general and to our lives in particular. The quality of our fresh water is directly related to the quality of our health, both personal and public. As our population continues to grow so does the need for a self-sustaining source of unpolluted water.

Our remaining stands of old-growth forests are such self-sustaining sources of the fresh water we need now and, in the future, will value more than we will value un-laminated large beams for construction projects today. Life-sustaining fresh water may well become more valuable than oil or gold within this century.

The BLM is charged with managing public forests as resources necessary to our future. One step in this management is to note that old-growth is less susceptible to fire damage than is a newly-planted stand and, thus, it costs less to defend it and to maintain effective water storage and purification functions of a forest.

As reported in the news media, the BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR) does not reflect an understanding of these values let alone a commitment to protecting the quality and expanding the availability of fresh water for our future. This revision seems not to be based on new scientific findings and, therefore, appears to violate a public trust applicable to all government agencies. Out of a sense of responsible professionalism it should be withdrawn.



Mary L. Sherriffs



Ronald E. Sherriffs

137 W. 37th Ave.

Eugene, Oregon 97405

cc: Congressman Peter DeFazio
Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Gordon Smith