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

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JAN 09 2008

Re: BLM Western Oregon Plan Revisions

Dear Senator Smith,

I am extremely concerned about the BLM's proposed Western Oregon Plan Revisions. The proposed revisions are misguided, will further scar our landscape with clearcuts, will further reduce our scarce old-growth forests, and will lead to water pollution, degradation of habitat, and loss of wildlife. The proposal also ignores the important role that our forests play in regulating the climate.

I am shocked to find that, with this plan, the Bush Administration would place half of the public land that the BLM manages – and most of our best old-growth BLM forests – in “Timber Management Areas” to be clearcut every 80 years. I am further shocked to find that the Bush Administration's preferred alternative proposes to clearcut 110,000 acres of Oregon's old-growth forests and build 1,000 miles of new logging roads every decade while creating over 100,000 miles of new Off Highway Vehicle Emphasis Areas – all at the expense of roadless areas, threatened species, water quality, and non-motorized recreation. I am an avid hiker, and this proposed plan will reduce my chances for experiencing the magic of the old-growth forests, and with the increased access to Off Highway Vehicles, the peace and solitude that I find when I venture outdoors will be harder to come by. But, so much worse than any impact the WOPR may have on me, the plan will adversely affect the plants and animals on Oregon's public lands.

There are so many reasons that the WOPR is a bad for Oregon. I urge the BLM to follow the laws dictated by Northwest Forest Plan to keep our water clean and to protect our threatened and endangered species. I urge the BLM to protect older forests on public lands, move forward with thinning second growth forests, and protect communities from wildfire.

Sincerely,

Kali Peil
335 Garfield
Ashland, OR 97520