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01 / 07 / 2008

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BLM
PO Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208
re: W.O.P.R.

To whom it may concern:

I am a native of Oregon and a retired professor from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. Therefore, the thoughts that I will share with you in this letter are carefully thought out and are the result of my own observations based on studying the forest over the years.

I once briefly worked in the Coast Ranges for my brother, a now-retired timber manager for one of the mega-corporations of the lumber industry, after I left the university. In my job I was responsible for reseeded areas that had been selectively logged. From my hands-on position I was able to see first hand what was then a living example of the destruction of our landscape by the timber industry that continues today without interference from your agency, which is supposed to protect our legacy instead of selling it to the highest bidders. Simply planting grass seed after logging does absolutely nothing to restore that foliage necessary for animal life. Destruction of living plants and animals by the routine chemical fogging of the land subsequent to logging is far worse, because it also affects human health adversely.

Sir or madam, clear-cutting is the most destructive of all our practices – even more than the destruction caused by the oil industry. The habitat for nature's creatures is routinely destroyed without even lip service to re-foliating the land properly. It is convenient for them to simply mow down 1500-year-old trees, spread some grass seed around and leave fallen logs dangerously close to roadways, as they recently did along U.S. Route 26 in eastern Clatsop County, where they also totally ignored the law by cutting timber too close to the highway! The reseeded does absolutely nothing to restore the habitat of native species, which are as important to the ecosystem as a 1500-year-old Sitka spruce that is itself an entire forest community. The only way we can protect what is left of the old growth forests so vital to our planetary health during these times of global warming is to leave them alone! Selective cutting accompanied by proper re-foliation and stopping the spread of chemical poisons will do far more to preserve our forest legacy than anything in current practice, but leave the old growth forests alone! To paraphrase Al Gore: *What were you thinking?*

When I was a child nearly 65 years ago, we lived on a farm near the mouth of the Columbia River that was founded in 1880 by my late grandfather, a fishing boat builder whose boats may be seen today in the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria. My

uncles were fishermen and lumberjacks. I remember the 12' thick trees routinely being hauled out of the forest and the destruction of the landscape that followed. Don't you care? Are you all such lackeys to the Bush administration that you would trash our landscape simply to have lumber to sell abroad? Have you seen what Oregon State University recently did to destroy the coastal highways? They clear-cut some mountain inland from the coast that led to the horrible erosion of the slope that collapsed. Nice job!

If you sell out and allow our ecology to be routinely destroyed just for the benefit of profit generated by the timber industry, you will likely have a hard time finding a job after we dump that corrupt administration which obviously encouraged this assault on our landscape. What is worse, the lumber stripped from our mountains in such an ecologically unsound manner is going mostly to overseas markets! We will not stand by idly and watch you sell our legacy overseas while our land is routinely destroyed by your lumber buddies. We have to live here. Are you the same people who allowed the destruction of the state of West Virginia by strip mining? I know some land you can buy cheaply.

No increase in logging is acceptable – *especially* during these times of climate crisis!
Please change the direction of your thinking. What are you? *Nuts?*

Sincerely,



Prof. Basil R. Tyler, *ret.*,
School of Fine Arts,
University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee