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636 Bolt Mtn. Rd.
Grants Pass, OR 97527

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Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office
333 SW 1st Ave.
Portland, OR 97208

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to comment on the Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR). I am a river guide, and I think WOPR is a bad idea. There are about 100 plant and animal species that rely on the old-growth forests. We should not be cutting any more of our old-growth forests because we have very little old-growth remaining, and we need it to provide habitat for anadromous fish to support the fishing industry! Furthermore, old-growth forests provide the cleanest drinking water for people throughout the Northwest.

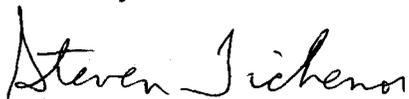
The Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR) is a blatant attempt by the Bush administration and the timber industry to bypass the scientific analysis that was done to develop the Northwest Forest Plan, which is a balanced approach to forest use. The WOPR would open our forests to destructive logging practices for short-term timber gains. The timber industry is wrong when it says logging should take precedence over other uses. The language of the O&C Act is very clear and important: "[O&C lands] shall be managed...for permanent forest production, and the timber thereon shall be sold, cut and removed in conformity with the principal [sic] of sustained yield for the purpose of providing a permanent source of timber supply, protecting watersheds, regulating stream flow, and contributing to the economic stability of local communities and industries, and providing recreational facilities." 43 U.S.C. § 1181a.

Economic stability of local communities and industries includes the recreational and commercial fishing industries and many other industries. Providing recreational facilities is important to private individuals and businesses dealing in recreation. Protecting watersheds and regulating stream flow deals with clean water for people and minimizing flooding in places where people build homes and businesses. It isn't "all about the timber industry!"

Over the past year, several newspapers have written news articles about the Bush administration's representatives meddling with the research done by scientists and also rewriting scientific reports. These allegations are still being investigated, yet they have discredited the draft Spotted Owl Recovery Plan and the revised Marbled Murrelet Critical Habitat Designation. These discredited plans form a basis of WOPR, and if the BLM tries to implement WOPR, it will go into many court cases.

The Northwest Forest Plan has been proven to be a balanced approach. Please throw out WOPR and keep the Northwest Forest Plan. Furthermore, please work for adequate funding of the Northwest Forest Plan; the BLM would need an additional \$17 million/year for full implementation. This would allow continued scientific monitoring of forest habitat in order to continue establishing a balanced approach to forest use. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Steven Tichenor