

Bureau of Land Management, WOPR Office
333 SW First Avenue
Portland, OR 97208

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JAN 09 2008

Re: BLM Western Oregon Plan Revisions

Dear BLM,

I am writing you to express my deep concern with the proposed revisions of the use of the nearly 2.6 million acres of federal forests under the WOPR. I believe the changes that are being considered stand to be a giant and irreversible step backwards for the public.

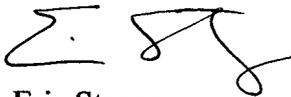
I live in Ashland, OR with my wife and two young daughters and we are regular users of the wonderful forests that surround us. Not only we do recreate in the forests but we depend on them to provide our community with clean drinking water and protect our community from fire. To propose an increase in old-growth logging on public land in Western Oregon by 700% and to plan to build over 1000 miles of new logging roads in the next decade is unconscionable.

It pains me to think that my children may not get to experience the beauty of our public lands due to the interest of a short term economic fix. I continually ask myself the question: what will happen when we cut the last of the old trees? They will be gone forever and we will be left with only the raw material that they provided. We cannot replant old-growth forests. Once they are gone, that is it. I urge you to protect the remaining 15% of our old-growth forests for the sake of all of us and future generations.

I do appreciate the economic ~~of~~ impact logging has on our region. Instead of old-growth logging, I believe we can better manage existing forests. Thinning small trees could offer more than 2 billion board feet of commercially valuable timber if actively thinned while preserving our last, best public lands.

There are no second chances when it comes to old-growth forests, so I urge you to take a stand to protect what is left.

Sincerely,

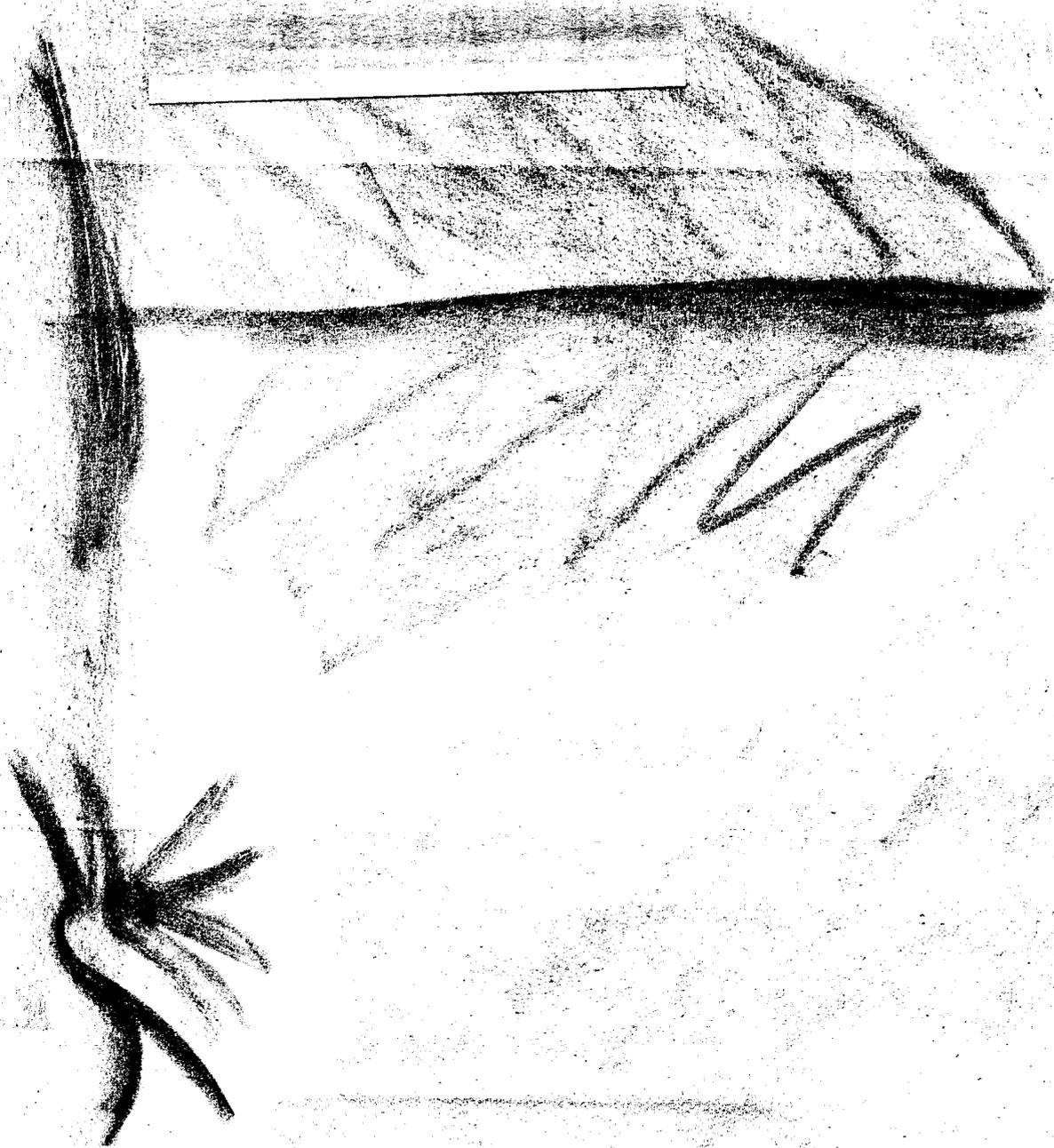


Eric Strong

431 Parkside Dr.
Ashland, OR 97520

c.c. Senator Ron Wyden, Senator Gordon Smith, Rep. Greg Walden

Here is a drawing my six
year old daughter did after
overhearing my wife and I
talking about WOPR. I
believe she sums it up quite
nicely.



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