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1255 Worthington Rd.
Eagle Point, OR 97524
January 7, 2008

Edward W. Shepard, State Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon Plan Revision
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

Dear Mr. Shepard,

We have been advised that our area of Jackson County is being considered for a dedicated OHV area under WPR. We are very much against this happening.

This area is a major elk and deer habitat, one of the major ones in Oregon. This is a winter foraging area for elk. We have herds of 50 to 100 animals moving through this area. OHV traffic would disrupt the elk migrations and harass the animals. It would also open up this area to the possibility of more poaching.

Mud boggers have torn up the land in the recent past. The damage to the meadows, trails and creeks is appalling. Sandy Banks, our neighbor, has documented and taken pictures of the abuse. These documents are in possession of the BLM. The BLM has been working to restore riparian areas and to repair erosion from damage by vehicles. We are now able to ride horses and hike without the torn up and deeply rutted trails that resulted from past vehicle abuse. It doesn't make sense to undo all the efforts of those who have been working so hard to repair this area, not to mention the money that it has cost to do the mitigation.

Increased OHV use would add to the fire danger in this area and would endanger our homes. We already have a problem with people going to the end of the road and building bonfires at night and having drinking parties there. Having extra traffic would make this worse.

Those of us who live here, bought property close to BLM lands in order to be able to hike and ride horses in the area and to live in a quiet and peaceful community of farms and ranches. Off-road motor vehicle use is incompatible with this. Worthington Road is a three and a half mile long, mostly gravel road maintained by the county. In the summer, the homeowners pay for surfacing for dust reduction. Extra vehicle use tears up the road surface, causes air pollution and costs more money for the county to maintain. This is a quiet dead end road. Extra traffic would lead to dumping (something that is already a problem), dust and noise. It would also make it more dangerous for children and animals on this road. It would decrease our property values and our quality of life.

We also are concerned about the cutting of old growth forests. We would like to see the Northwest Forest Plan revived, since there were many hearings and much study involved in its adoption.

Once old growth forests are gone, they are gone, in effect, forever. The ecological conditions of an old growth forest take up to a thousand years to develop. Once logged, old growth lands are simply added to the previously logged lands which become, in effect, tree plantations or tree farms, designed to be harvested over relatively short periods of time. No one is prepared to wait for a millennium while a clearcut old growth stand attempts to regenerate itself. And the disappearance of old growth will promote increases in noxious weeds and invasive species which old growth resists, but which move in after a clearcut. Also, with indisputable global warming now occurring, moisture-holding old growth

forests, like giant water-holding sponges, will be increasingly important, as they are less susceptible to the dryness and flammability of stands of plantation trees,

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John and Carolyn Ramsey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John and Carolyn Ramsey
541-831-1657