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

CC: Oregon Congressional delegation

Dear BLM:

My husband is a Republican and I am a Democrat, but we are united in our concern with the direction the Bush Administration is headed in with the management of nearly 2.6 million acres of federal forests under the Western Oregon Plan Revisions. The changes that the BLM is contemplating will unravel the protections of the landmark Northwest Forest Plan, and may lead to water pollution, degraded habitat, and increased landslide and tree falls during heavy storms.

Your current proposal is unacceptable. The agency proposes to increase old-growth logging on public lands in western Oregon by 700%, build 1,000 miles of new logging road in the next decade and clear-cut at a 9-1 ratio to thinning. This is a myopic and backwards proposal that depletes our natural resource base for future generations by weakening protections for forests, creeks and salmon. Shockingly, the proposal ignores the role that these forests play in regulating the climate. Furthermore, this solution to the county funding crises will only transfer the current shortfall to our children and grandchildren.

Most Americans want federal land managers to embrace thinning second growth forests, safeguard communities from wildfire and protect what remains of our nation's ancient forests. By focusing on previously logged public forestlands - many of which are now overgrown and in need of thinning - they are providing wood to local mills while actually improving conditions for fish and wildlife and keeping saws out of precious old-growth forests.

In contrast, the WOPR proposes to inflame the controversy by increasing old-growth clear-cutting for a short-term economic fix. The WOPR puts water quality at-risk and risks increasing mudslides, tree falls, and degradation of a beautiful environment. We live in one of the most beautiful areas in the nation and should be proud of what we have today. Our Oregon forests are unique; we have lived in several forests and have never seen in other locations the dense populations of wildflowers that exist in our local habitat. BLM should protect our remaining mature and old-growth forests on public land, not clear-cut these natural treasures as the WOPR proposes to do.

It is disappointing that at a time when public consensus for old-growth protection and second-growth thinning has never been stronger, the BLM is proposing to clear-cut forests older than our nation and turn complex ecosystems into flammable tree farms.

Please protect remaining old-growth forests, focus active management of BLM lands in already logged-over areas, and concentrate job opportunities in restoration forestry that would benefit watersheds and generate wood products without multiplying past mistakes.

Sincerely,

John & Sharon Nardello  
1407 Kubli Rd.  
Grants Pass, OR 97527