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**Letter to the Bureau of Land Management of Oregon regarding the WOPR**

“Protecting and improving our future well-being requires wiser and less destructive use of natural assets. We must learn to recognize the true value of nature – both in an economic sense and in the richness it provides to our lives in ways much more difficult to put numbers on.”

-- Quote from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment written by the United Nations

As a resident in Benton county, Oregon, and a student studying to be a natural resource specialist, I am outraged by the decision of the Bureau of Land Management to allow the severe increase of logging. The word is that within the next ten years, the increase of logging on the old growth forests is of 700%. This is almost incomprehensible. But it really has nothing to do with me or anyone like me. This has to do with finding a solution. There needs to be a new amendment to the revision draft. The compromise must be made for the well being of the forest and the sketch for a new solution can be found in the community conservation alternative.

The blame is on the Federal government for not continuing to subsidize the counties for the lumber compensation; the blame is on the BLM for rolling over so complacently to the federal government without suggesting that there be a viable ecological assessment of the magnitude of this deforestation. The trees, you may say, are scheduled to be replanted. This would not be a logical remedy to the urgency of the delicate environmental local issues we face today. To allow the citizens of this fine state to send comments as their only feeble assertion of action is the BLM's laugh in the faces of the people. It is a sad and discouraging affair, but one I cannot sit by and do nothing about.

The earth's health is at stake. To deplete the northwest of this many trees in this amount of time, is to reduce the necessary storage of carbon to a level of toxicity that will be duly noted within years of time, most likely shorter than to be expected. These are the lungs of the planet. The older the tree is, the more pollution the tree is able to flush out of our atmosphere. The following three incentives are the revisions of the conservation alternative:

1. Protecting all the remaining mature and old-growth forests on federal land;
2. Shifting the agency's efforts toward ecological restoration of forests and watersheds; and
3. Achieving social and economic objectives through forest restoration activities.

Please consider the ideas of encouraging restoration of forests and watersheds, including road decommissioning, road maintenance, stream restoration, prescribed burning, and the careful thinning of plantations to restore them to forest health.  
(Introduction to the community conservation alternative)

As the world's leaders joined together in Indonesia in November for the cooperative climate conference, the state of Oregon's Bureau of Land Management runs

in the opposite direction, choosing to destroy some of the last old growth conifers and broad leaves left standing in the world. Is this where I am proud to be? Yes, we in the community are aware of the pressures faced by the lumber industry and the federal government, but the future generations of humans, fauna, and flora will suffer greatly from this riparian clear cutting. Why is the clear cutting the preferred method? My guess is that there is greater profit in a short time for this alternative. But we have to think on a broader scale. We are an intelligent culture that must make an example to our children and think about the future. The plan for thinning, alternative plan #2 is the method that would be the required federal revision, yet do the least harm to the forests.

Please, I implore of you, smart reader, please do what you have the power to do and push for the non harvest land base thinning. There is not much time. If the counties need those funds, then the representatives of our state can redirect funds for this, or makes those in the county a small tax levy that would help protect the streams and lands we seek to protect. Please....where there is a will, there is a way.

Signed  
Melissa Glad