

RECEIVED

1912

JAN 11 2008

1/09/08

Edward W. Shepard  
United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Western Oregon Plan Revisions

Dear Mr. Shepard,

It's obvious that lots of research by many hard-working people contributed to the background for the WOPR. The problems are with the beginning assumptions of the revision, and with its conclusions.

The Northwest Forest Plan was already a compromise. Forests and wildlife are already being sacrificed through this earlier agreement. These lands and these animals and plants, which have no political voice, should not be the victims, yet again, of human lack of ingenuity and foresight. Which is what seems to have happened with the WOPR.

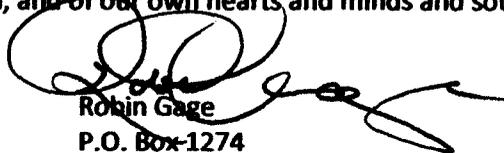
The B.L.M.'s responsibilities to protect heritage land should not be allowed to be manipulated in a political game. If the 70-year-old O. and C. Lands Act is a problem, then that Act should be changed.

None of the proposed alternatives saves old growth forests intact. No alternative leaves all of the habitat we know is needed for threatened and endangered species, and required by the Endangered Species Act. No alternative lets stand all B.L.M. land that has, in the past, been declared an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, a Research Natural Area, a Late-Successional Reserve, an Outstanding Natural Area or Riparian Reserve. No alternative saves all critical wildlife habitat from clear-cutting. No alternative leaves all riparian habitat untouched. Therefore no alternative is acceptable. The "no action" plan is the best alternative we are given. And it's far from perfect.

What would make sense would be for the B.L.M. to scrap assumptions and conclusions in the WOPR and start again.

Start again by listening to biologists and botanists who are not under pressure to help bring in a timber harvest, but who are uniquely qualified to advise what is best for what little old growth we have left, in this age of global warming. Start again by listening to reasonable alternatives that have been proposed to the B.L.M. for harvesting already-logged and "plantation" second and third-growth forest.

I'm not the first to say: our old growth forests—including those of the B.L.M.—are our most valuable assets: let's keep them: for the health of the air, of the water and waterways, of the soil, of the planet, of the forest flowers, of the pollinators, of the fish, of the birds, of the forest-dependent animals we know and don't know..., of our children and grandchildren, and of our own hearts and minds and souls.

  
Robin Gage  
P.O. Box-1274  
Springfield, OR 97477

Cc: local state, and federal officials, including  
Emily Rice, Eugene District B.L.M.  
Pete Sorenson, Lane County Commissioner  
Pete DeFazio, U. S. House of Representatives