

January 10, '08

Dear BLM,

I can barely type this response to your whopper of a WOPR. For 36 years I have lived here in the Illinois Valley. I have a long history of participating in any public forum that is offered by the BLM and the forest service towards helping to protect the remaining native forests, whether in old growth form, roadless areas, wilderness areas, or never- been-entered- for- management areas. I care and so I participate. But I am no fool and I do not believe my comments make any difference to the administration that now sits at the behest of the Bush administration. I really want to say BLAH, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah.....but I will go through the motion and spell out a few thoughts.

No to increasing cutting of ANY old growth or native forests. I recently heard a Harvard University professor describe the results of their recent study on Harvard's 2,000 acre forest where they measured the carbon dioxide that the oldest trees were able to sequester and it turned out to be more than what the younger forests could do. They concluded the need to save the oldest forests. Global Warming is perhaps the biggest issue in front of us. Cutting old growth is like suffocating life on earth. Even though I don't believe in cutting old growth forests for other ecological and spiritual reasons, concerns over global warming now out weigh all others.

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.

It is unconscionable to decrease the riparian buffers.

I support the designation of ACEC's. Here in the Illinois Valley the ACEC that is within the upper east fork of the Illinois River should be enlarged to include all the BLM lands within the area of Takilma. The present proposal omitted the east side on Hope Mt.

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,

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