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OR/WA State Director Edward Shepard
Western Oregon Plan Revision
P. O. Box 2965
Portland, Oregon 97208

Dear Sir:

As a native Oregonian in my sixties, I am vehemently opposed to any plan that allows an increase in logging – particularly any trees over 100 years old. I oppose logging of older trees in all forests - federal, state, and privately owned. The argument that increased logging provides jobs and revenues to counties and schools carries no weight with me. I am perfectly willing to pay more taxes, preferably a state tax, to take care of counties' and schools' needs. The forest products industry should be restricted to harvesting "tree farms" of replanted trees. These tree farms are not real forests at all, and, realistically speaking, they are the only sustainable sources of wood. Popular, bamboo, and hemp should be used for all feasible products to decrease the demand for timber.

I want federal and state governments, and the forest industry to recognize and admit that their greed-motivated manipulations of forests and logging regulations is detrimental to the health of our planet. The loss of old growth trees and eco-systems has been irreversible if you honestly look at logging and forest management practices for the past 200 years. No replanted area has ever been allowed to grow back to its original age and diversity.

For the past 10 years, I have personally been suffering the consequences of the logging of 35 acres of old growth bordering my farm. In trying to stop that logging, I researched and found proof of nine violations of the NW Forest Plan which BLM was committing by awarding Growl and Howl to Hull Oakes Lumber. And still, the Board of Land Appeals gave the go-ahead to BLM, despite my 35-page appeal with affidavits of proof of violations that I submitted. Since those trees were harvested, I have had property damage from trees blowing down which BLM claimed would never go down. The three acres set aside as a protective buffer for my spring, is only one acre of protection. The three acres of buffer to protect the endangered orchid were not enough – the orchid has never bloomed since the logging. The intermittent stream was left with no riparian protection because BLM ignored their own mapping and designation of the stream, declaring it did not meet the requirements. The constant flow of run-off water from the logged-off ridge has caused me enormous costs putting in a system of French drains to carry that water away from my home and out-buildings.

None of the three alternatives of the Western Oregon Plan Revisions are acceptable to me. The Northwest Forest Plan should be maintained – even though it was not strong enough to prevent BLM from "having its way" with Growl and Howl.

Sherrie Kuhl
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