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January 9, 2008

Mr. Edward W. Shepard, State Director
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon Plan Revisions
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

Dear Director:

Re: Western Oregon Plan Revisions, Draft Environmental Impact Statement

On behalf of the Mid Willamette Fly Fishers (MWFF), we, the board of directors, wish to express our great concern regarding the Preferred Alternative described in the draft Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR) currently in public review. MWFF represents over 40 members in the Corvallis/Albany area; our members fish and recreate throughout the State of Oregon. We find the Preferred Alternative to be totally unacceptable and recommend that BLM adopt only the No Action Alternative.

The Preferred Alternative represents a serious threat to the health and productivity of streams, rivers, and lakes of Oregon and the fish populations they support. The major threats to waterbodies derive from logging old growth forests around headwaters and from drastic reductions in riparian buffers. Logging, especially clear cutting, in headwaters areas will allow detrimental sedimentation and siltation to occur through entire stream drainages, adversely affecting fish habitat. Removal of riparian vegetation will lead to dangerous increases in stream water temperatures, siltation, sedimentation, peak stream flows, and landslides as well as decreases in nutrient supplies and stream channel complexity due to lack of large woody debris. The habitat along the streams we fish will be severely degraded and/or destroyed, resulting in detrimental effects on anadromous and resident fish populations.

We are also concerned that the plan does not recognize that the proposed changes will exacerbate threats from global warming. Global warming threatens water quality and quantity in the Pacific Northwest. Old growth forests are a major source of cold, pure water for our streams and rivers. These sources of cold water will become even more important in the coming decades as global warming results in less and less suitable

spawning and rearing habitat for fish. The Preferred Alternative does not present any plans for dealing with the effects of global warming on the Pacific Northwest's waterbodies and fish populations.

The Preferred Alternative is not consistent with the Northwest Forest Plan of 1994. This plan set aside the remaining old growth forest for permanent protection in recognition of its ecological value and scarcity. Over the last two centuries, approximately 90% of old growth forests have been lost to logging; the remaining 10% must be protected. Stands of old trees are essential to the recreational and aesthetic needs of our members. They are ecologically essential to a variety of species such as the spotted owl and the marbled murrelet. And, finally, old growth forest is necessary to the preservation of Oregon's unique spirit.

In conclusion, MWFF urges the Bureau of Land Management to reject the Preferred Alternative due to its deleterious effects on Oregon ecosystems and urges adoption of the No Action Alternative, which we believe will retain the values we hold dear as fly fishers and citizens of Oregon.

Sincerely,

George Long, President
Mid Willamette Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 22
Corvallis, Oregon 97339



Cc: Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Gordon Smith
Representative Peter de Fazio
Representative Darlene Hooley
Representative Greg Walden