

Comments on the Western Oregon Plan Revision

By: Toby Kubler

30579 Kenady Lane

Cottage Grove, OR, 97424

I am concerned about the access to jobs in forest related enterprises. The WOPR mentions only timber related work. It does not mention local jobs being created specifically for forest management, including replanting, protection from disease, insect infestation, and invasive plants. No mention is made of other economic uses of the forests, namely microbial ecology, fungi, and wildlife. Of particular concern in relations to jobs is the growing practice of using labor crews of foreign workers holding H2B visas. I live in an area that has severe underemployment. Therefore, I would like to see the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) address the multiplicity of forest related jobs.

Water quality is also of vital interest to the communities of the south Willamette Valley. Silt, nutrients, herbicides and pesticides, have a detrimental effect on our community water supplies. Reduction of protection to stream flows is therefore a great concern to me. The present hydrological analysis in the WOPR focuses on normal rainfall events, even though extreme events of flooding and draught are a certainty over the 400 year planning horizon of the WOPR. Therefore, I would like to see the DEIS revised to reflect extreme rainfall events.

The WOPR does not discuss the opportunities for more environmentally friendly forestry practices to be used in our forests. Specifically, heavy track type and wheeled equipment damages roots, microbial ecology, and soil stability. Since the writing of the North West Forest Plan many technological improvements have been researched and developed. Therefore, I would like to see the DEIS revised to reflect appropriate technological improvements.

I am vehemently against timber harvesting in the OLD GROWTH Forest Lands. Unless and until we know how to recreate an old growth forest in all its complexity, it is incumbent upon us to retain and maintain our few remaining parcels of old growth forests. We risk losing the knowledge that remains to be discovered there for all future generations.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to comment on the WOPR. If given the opportunity I would be happy to expand on these ideas at a later date.

Sincerely,

Toby Kubler