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January 10, 2008

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Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon Plan Revisions
P O Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

Dear Ladies and/or Gentlemen,

You request for me to submit some sort of professional revisions as if I have in my spare time taken a graduate course in forest management. Since I have not does that mean my opinion won't be counted? I am a tax payer and I vote. That should make me as eligible as any one else since we the people are (at least on paper) the government.

Here are all my reasons for not wanting this to happen. Here is what I have gleaned from just being observant in the last 20 years:

- There is a difference between old grow or rain forests and a regular forest. Trust me I have lived in every corner of this United States and also in Europe. They do not have the forests we have here. Not even Germany's Black Forest holds a candle to what we have. In the scheme of things the one time hit to our economy that destroying our precious forests would make is not worth it. We would get that one hit and a couple of years from now the economy will be right back where it is.
- Rain forests are a good thing for the entire world and we expect those people in other countries to protect their rain forests for our good. On the other hand I have noticed that in my lifetime Oregon's rain forest has just about been wiped out by logging. Why the double standard?
- A huge percentage of forest fires are caused by man, yet there is some sort of twisted logic that says we need to make roads further into the forest so people can get to more and more remote places. The roads are to help fight the fires that people going down the roads start.
- There is this thing happening called Global Warming. We are all supposed to do everything we can to prevent it getting worse. I don't need a degree in environmental studies to tell me that stepping up logging is not helping that cause.
- More logging equals more mud slides. I'm sure a 20 year study is going to have to be done on this before it becomes reality for the forest service, but the people that will be paying for that study in more ways than one already know the results.
- Using poor logging communities as an excuse to keep cutting down our forests is a joke. These people need to be retrained in good trade schools not kept clinging to an industry that cannot sustain them. Someone is getting something out of this, but it isn't the loggers.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to recognize this for another stop gap measure to keep the failing timber companies alive and squeeze every penny out of our forests. The attempts to "notify" the public were interesting. I guess I'm supposed to frequent the BLM web site. If I hadn't heard it mentioned on the news I would never have known about it. I'm sure many people that saw the brief announcement that we had two days to respond won't have time to do so. How convenient for those that will make the money off of this.

The bottom line is I'm tired of the government coming in here and taking our natural resources. We have a multimillion dollar tourist industry that depends on Oregon being rare and unspoiled. We have tourists coming from all over the world to see our mountains, forests, and coastline. Please leave the last of our pristine forests untouched. Let the tourist industry be the winners instead of the timber industry. That way the people that live here will also be the winners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teddi Carbonneau". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name being more prominent.

Teddi Carbonneau
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