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Jan. 8, 2008

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To:
Bureau of Land Management
Medford District: Butte Falls Resource Area
3040 Biddle Rd
Medford, OR 97504



Re: Comments on Western Oregon Plan Revision

Dear Sirs,

First of all I just wanted to make clear that the reason I waited so long to submit my comments is that I was serious about researching the various sides of the story. Also, I wanted my comments to be relevant and clear. Given that I am not a scientist, nor a writer, I felt that the best course of action was for me to include with this letter a scoping comment from; George Sexton, Conservation Director of Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center; Josh Laughlin, Executive Director of the Cascadia Wildlands Project; Lisa Rohde, Conservation & Outreach Coordinator of the Siskiyou Project; and Francis Eatherington of Umpqua Watersheds Forest Watch. Although these comments were written specifically in regards to the Musty Sardines Timber Sale I feel that they are relevant to the WOPR as a whole and that the arguments included hold up on the larger scale of the Western Oregon Plan Revision. I've also included a article written by Marna Porath for the News-Register which also criticizes the plan.

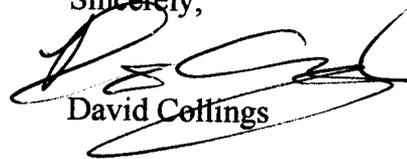
I understand that the purpose of these comments is for the BLM to collect arguments for and against the WOPR, arguments that have a basis in scientific fact rather than emotion. However, I feel that this frames the argument unfairly as some valid concerns seem to be not up for discussion. One of these is the very definition of "sustainability". Everyone seem to agree that the forests should be managed in a sustainable way, however, I strongly feel that we cannot continue to cut old growth trees in any sustainable fashion. Since, to my knowledge, no cut forests have fully returned to an old growth type of system during the full history of logging in Oregon, then no further cutting of old growth should occur until forests that have been cut begin to return to a natural old grown state. That, to me, is the definition of sustainability.

In addition, I feel that is unfair to hold the funds provided by the O&C Act as a carrot to encourage logging of public properties. The funds that trickle down to the communities are minor compared to the value of the forest and amount to welfare for the local economy. If the O&C were truly an attempt to benefit the local economies than there should be a provision in the WOPR that ALL contracts be given to companies based entirely in the area where the logging occurs. This would also encourage sustainable

practices as these local companies would have a stake in the future of these forests. Another aspect of this is that I moved here partly for the natural peace and beauty of this area. I brought with me an income, two jobs and many bills. I have hired contractors, builders, electricians, eaten at local restaurants, shopped in local stores, and yes, even purchased local forestry products. All of this adding to the local economy and none of it would have happened had I decided to live elsewhere. I would have decided to move elsewhere had I thought that the surrounding forests were in danger of clearcutting.

Finally, and though, again, this has no scientific basis, I feel that we have a moral obligation to future generations to find new ways of doing things. It seems that the current administration wants to do business as usual despite the obvious consequences. Others believe that there is no reason to try and save what is already doomed. I believe that we all have a moral obligation to do everything we can to maintain the natural beauty and diversity that we have inherited.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Collings', written over a horizontal line.

David Collings