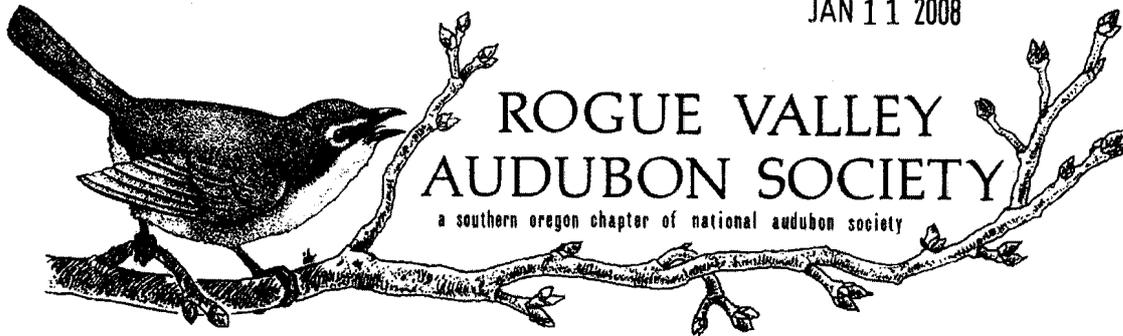


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January 9, 2008

Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office
333 SW 1st. Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

-- NOTE: hard copy of email submission sent 1/9/08 to: orwopr@or.blm.gov --

Dear BLM:

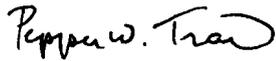
Enclosed please find comments on the Western Oregon Plan Revisions Draft Environmental Impact Statement (WOPR DEIS). These comments are submitted on behalf of the following Audubon chapters in Oregon: Rogue Valley Audubon Society, Cape Arago Audubon Society, Audubon Society of Corvallis, Klamath Basin Audubon Society, Lane County Audubon Society, Audubon Society of Portland, Salem Audubon Society, and Umpqua Audubon Society, as well as the National Audubon Society. Complete addresses and chapter contacts for each group are given at the beginning of the comments. Together, these Audubon groups represent well over 10,000 Oregon citizens, many of whom are regular users of BLM's Western Oregon forests for hiking, camping, bird-watching, and other outdoor activities.

As detailed in our comments, we believe that the WOPR represents an unconscionable retreat from sound, scientifically-based principles of public land management; a retreat that is without legal basis or justification. If adopted, any of the WOPR action alternatives would be devastating to the ecological health of Oregon's forests. In particular, we note the drastically increased fire risk that would be created by the plan, as shown by BLM's own analyses. In addition, we believe that all of the WOPR action alternatives violate BLM's legal obligations under the Endangered Species Act, by placing the Northern Spotted Owl in serious jeopardy of extinction.

It is our recommendation that the entire WOPR process be abandoned. None of the action alternatives would live up to BLM's legal and professional obligations as stewards of our public lands. In contrast, the No Action Alternative – management based on the Northwest Forest Plan – represents a comprehensive, science-based ecosystem management program. It should be retained as the foundation for management of BLM's Western Oregon forestlands.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We look forward to your response.

Respectfully submitted,



Pepper W. Trail, Ph.D.
Conservation Chair
Rogue Valley Audubon Society
2011 Crestview Drive
Ashland, OR 97520

Cc: Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Gordon Smith
Representative Greg Walden
Representative Peter DeFazio
Representative Earl Blumenhauer
Representative Darlene Hooley
Representative David Wu