

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon Plan Revision
P.O.B. 2965
Portland, Oregon 97208

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Dear Sirs:

During the process of revising Alternative 2 of the Western Oregon Plan Revision, please keep T. 19S. R.06W. Sec. 17 as a Late Successional Management Area. In this section is a small, beautiful, old-growth grove, the Grandmothers of Wolf Creek, and nearby older forest, which together comprise approximately one quarter of the section. This is an area for environmental education and recreation that is greatly valued by students, teachers, and residents in Crow and Eugene.

This old-growth forest near Crow is one of the the oldest stands of native forest close to Eugene. It has

- * 300 - 400-year-old Douglas firs, along with very old western red cedar and western hemlock
- * younger trees of diverse ages
- * a diverse understory of shrubs, herbaceous plants, mosses, and fungi
- * habitat suitable for spotted owl and marbled murrelet
- * forest stretching from Wolf Creek up to Timber Ridge, a 600-foot elevation span that adds species and habitat diversity to the area.

This particular forest has become important in the lives of many people, especially immigrant students at Lane Community College who who are learning to respect and protect the environment in their new home as they learn English. For the past three years, field trips to the old growth forest on Wolf Creek have been an important part of class study of western Oregon nature and environmental protection. Student docents have learned to explain such elements as snags, nurse logs, vegetation layers and food chains of an old-growth forest to others. They served as forest guides for another group of E.S.L. students from L.C.C., and also began to introduce the forest to students from Crow High School. The Wolf Creek forest is becoming an educational element in the lives of more and more students and other people as well.

I believe it is important to have an old-growth area for learning about the forest in the Coast Range and west of Eugene, in addition to the B.L.M.'s two formal Environmental Education areas east of I-5, which are not in the Coast Range. It helps many educators and students to have an old-growth forest close to educational institutions in and near Crow/Lorane/Veneta and west Eugene, in a place on Wolf Creek Road that is easily accessible to everyone. I believe this forest is the closest publicly-owned old-growth forest in our area that is accessible from a paved road.

I hope this lovely old growth grove can remain as a Late Successional Management Area, for the continuing benefit of Lane County students now and for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Ann Jensen

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