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January 10, 2008

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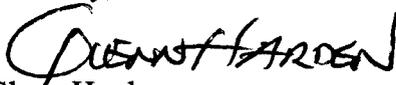
JAN 11 2008

Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon Plan Revisions
333 SW 1st Ave.
Portland, OR 97208

I am writing to urge the BLM to scrap its proposed revision to the Northwest Forest Plan. It must be recognized that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement was a result of an out-of-court settlement between the timber industry and the administration. (The timber industry lawsuit charged that the BLM had failed to fulfill its financial obligations to Oregon counties under a 1937 law that mandated the BLM to log on a sustained yield basis lands that once belonged to the Oregon & California Railroad, with 50 percent of the revenue going to 18 Western Oregon counties in which the lands are located. Logging was reduced under the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan to protect habitat for spotted owls, murrelets and other species in old growth forests.) By proposing a seven-fold increase in old growth logging, the clear-cutting endorsed in BLM's Preferred Alternative 2 of the WOPR will create even-aged plantations without any standing fire-resistant large trees. If the goal is enriching executives of timber corporations that log on public lands, or a dramatic acceleration in deforestation (the #2 cause of global warming, just behind the burning of fossil fuels), or destroying some of the last, best salmon habitat in the Northwest (the plan calls for a significant reduction in stream-side protection and the building of 1000 miles of new logging roads), or adversely impacting the nearly 200 species of animals that depend upon old growth habitat or enhancing the conditions for large, costly fires on the resulting even-aged tree plantations, then this plan is a fine one.

I live with my wife and daughter on 20 mostly forested acres near Eugene. As owners of a small sawmill company, we understand the importance of managing our woodland in a responsible, sustainable manner. The BLM should also strive to be a responsible steward of our public forest lands. Adopting the WOPR clearly falls short in achieving this.

Sincerely,


Glen Harden
Eugene, OR

cc: Senator Ron Wyden, Senator Gordon Smith, Rep. Peter DeFazio, Rep. Greg Walden, Rep. Earl Blumenhauer, Rep. Darlene Hooley, Rep. David Wu