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Dear Bureau of Land Management,

I am writing to you to voice my concern over the Bush Administration's Western Oregon Plan Revisions. Under this proposal, concerning the management of nearly 2.6 million acres of federal forests, the protection provided by the Northwest Forest Plan will be undermined.

As an outdoor enthusiast, an environmental studies major at the University of Pittsburgh and a citizen who is looking to move to Oregon in the near future, this is an issue that I take great interest in. Yes, I am looking at this personally, but this development has a much broader impact than just me. As a citizen, I am asking that my government to do its job and set an example of appropriate forestry practice.

I find your current proposal for WOPR unacceptable. The agency proposes to increase old-growth logging on public lands in western Oregon by 700%, build 1,000 miles of new logging road in the next decade and clear-cut at a 9-1 ratio to thinning. This is in no way reasonable or sustainable and will deplete valuable natural resources that should be managed to provide for future generations.

I am among the majority of Americans in that I support the thinning of second growth forests rather than the cutting of old-growth forests. These second growth areas are often overgrown and in need of thinning. This thinning could provide wood to mills while actually improving conditions for fish and wildlife. Environmental protection and economic gain do not need to be mutually exclusive. Sustainable practices in forestry will ensure long-term economic stability and success.

It is disappointing that at a time when public consensus for old-growth protection and second-growth thinning has never been stronger, the BLM is proposing to clear-cut forests older than our nation. I am asking you to please protect remaining old-growth forests and concentrate job opportunities in restoration forestry that would benefit watersheds and generate wood products without multiplying past mistakes.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please have a nice day.

Sincerely,



Megan Sharretts

CC: Oregon Congressional delegation