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Regarding: WOPR

The deadline for responses to the Western Oregon Plan Revision, (WOPR), by the BLM, is nearing. The WOPR is very irresponsible and moves us backwards at high speeds. Clear cutting old growth on our public O & C lands will make us less able to meet the challenges ahead. And, it is a silly argument that the 1937 law mandates the primary use of the O&C lands is for lumber...not only is that an extremely limited interpretation, but also the world is different today than it was in 1937 - our needs are different.

While there are some citizens who prefer to believe that global warming is a hoax, it is by now an undisputed fact that our planet is warming and that the results include melting ice-caps, extreme weather patterns, and infestations due to lengthy warmer summers.

The problems associated with growing trees is exaggerated by the effects of global warming. Clear cutting our last vestiges of native virgin forests is foolish in light of these climatic changes. Instead, we should be saving these forests and receiving monetary carbon sequestration credits for not cutting these forests. The temperate old growth forests are known for the tons of carbon they sequester. If we do not release that carbon into a carbon rich, (or global warming) atmosphere, we should be compensated in payments called carbon credits.

Protecting our old forests will benefit us in many other ways as well, with clean and more abundant water, clearer atmosphere, and wildlife habitat. So lets give credit where its due...With greater urgency, we depend on the myriad benefits of the damp, cool, old growth forests we are priveleged to enjoy in the Northwest. Lets save the best and restore the rest.

Susan Applegate

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