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JAN 11 2008

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Dear BLM and Oregon Congressional Delegation,

I am deeply concerned and strongly oppose the Western Oregon Plan Revisions. The actions taken under these plan revisions will have dire, long lasting effects on our public forest eco-system. There is no time more important than now to work towards protecting the scarce stands of old-growth and shrinking numbers of salmon. This plan is totally backwards! The greater public opposes old-growth logging and supports responsible thinning. Not only do old growth forests protect clean water, cool streams and complex eco-system for salmon and other wildlife they are also much more resistant to fire than any other type of forest. Whose interests are being served if it is not the publics'?

I grew up along the Coquille River in Coos County where I was fortunate enough to see salmon spawning every year along its tributaries. I used to hike amongst old growth forests in the Siskiyou region. I gained a greater appreciation for the earth that we owe our lives to. It is our life support and we must protect, if for nothing else (i.e. wildlife, fish, clean water, ect), then for our own interests of living.

Later in my life I worked for two summers as a hydrologist technician for the Forest Service in the Willamette National Forest. I worked mostly around streams monitoring its water quality and morphology and complexity; I also worked extensively to mark off boundaries around riparian areas in units to be thinned. Through this work I discovered the integral role that old growth, well established forests play on water quality and in-stream and riparian habitat. They provide shade for cool water, large woody debris for fish habitat, soil stability for controlling erosion, fire resistance, nutrients and decay for healthy soil and new life.

Thank you for your consideration.
Rosie Sweetman, Coquille River Watershed