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JAN 11 2008

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Jan. 2, 2008

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

re: BLM Western Oregon Plan Revisions

Dear BLM,

We are concerned about the direction the Bush administration is taking with the management of our federal lands throughout the country. We are especially concerned about 2.6 million acres that are managed by the BLM and currently fall under the Western Oregon Plan Revisions. A plan that was pushed through with a myriad of deals, promises and a culminating in a settlement to a suit. We can hardly believe in 2007 we are even discussing such a unreasonable stewardship plan. We use wood, timber is a reality and a renewable resource when managed well. We know it can be harvested responsibly in away that benefits the economy, the local communities, and the forest health. Public consensus does call for different management that asks for old-growth protection and second growth thinning. We are in a age where the common person as well as scientists across the world and various political views are agreeing that the planet needs a little help. That the WOPR assumes no climate change and no impact in a plan that would increase our carbon output and decrease our ability to sequester it is faulty science.

We are most concerned about the little unknown players who play a huge and mostly unknown role in our daily lives, possibly even our very existence on this planet. These are the micro players who need an undisturbed habitat or undisturbed old-growth to quietly go about their work. We are talking about the microbial life and the various insects and pollinators. Everybody can see the wonder of an old-growth conifer or hardwood, anyone can feel the majesty of standing out in the cathedral-like canopy of an old growth forest, but little is know about the complex web that supports these forests. Simple math tells us the output of oxygen of one tree, but what do we know about the life given by the soil. As explorers and scientists we are in uncharted territory when it comes to the soil. The science of the soils in a bio-diverse complex old growth forest is something we have limited knowledge. Understanding the matrix of plant, animal, and microbial communities is in its infancy. People only are beginning to decipher the importance of mycorrhizal in the life and death of the trees and the building of soil. Some scientists are beginning to realize these partnerships between the plants, the microbial life, the fungi are absolutely integral to life on earth. As old-growth forests are cut down

many fungi loose their hold in the ecosystem and we don't know if these species can return as the forests regenerate. We can't even fathom the potential for our fungus in biological cleanup, planet health, national security and medicine. Many of these mushrooms have incredible medicinal qualities from which fantastic pharmaceuticals may be derived--yet we will never know if we turn the last of the forests into tree farms.

Our food system may or may not be approaching a challenging phase due to the colony collapse disorder and other factors threatening our honey bees. What does this have to do with the BLM? Everything. If we loose the pollinators the industry relies on than we will be scrambling to learn about our native pollinators. Again a field we currently know very little about. Again these little guys are a forest resource we do not want to loose due to short-sightedness. In 2007 a west coast species of Bombus (Bumble Bee) was lost with little fanfare. Two years earlier, those that count these guys reported normal levels, now there are none to be found. Again we point to our health, our planets health, and national security are at risk.

These BLM lands are matrix lands that provide connectivity in our forests between private land. This gives the BLM a greater responsibility for stewardship that maintains the health of our systems and regions. These forests when healthy can maintain wildlife habitat and biodiversity, soil microbials, endemic species that can then spill over into other lands. Without consistency we may end up with vast tracks of land that are denuded of not only our resources but life as well.

Please protect remaining old-growth, protect resources we have yet to discover. Please come up with a plan that will create local jobs with restoration thinning projects that generate wood products without multiplying past mistakes. We support the "No Action Alternative."

Thank You,



Kirsten and Christopher Shockey



CC: Oregon Congressional delegation