

Bureau of Land Management, Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office
333 SW 1st Avenue
Portland, OR 97208
7 January 2008

2304
RECEIVED
JAN 11 2008

Dear BLM Personnel, and Senators and Representatives,

I co-own a small nanotechnology business based in Ashland, Oregon, that designs and fabricates tools for electron microscopy. Although my partner and I may have found it easier-going with such a business to settle in Silicon Valley or Silicon Forest, we chose Southern Oregon because of its natural beauty, and the amazing biodiversity of its ecosystems that at this time are nearly impossible to find anywhere else in the world. Frankly, we are dismayed at the ongoing behavior and attitudes of the Bush Administration and the Oregon BLM toward these ecosystems.

I am writing the following comments in regard to the BLM's proposed WOPR not as a professional in any of the fields from which the BLM suggested recently (Tim Reuwsaat, November 12, 2007, Ashland Forum) that it would take comments and suggestions seriously (i.e., Law, Environmental and Bio Sciences, Forestry, etc.), but as a professional nonetheless, and as a concerned resident of the state of Oregon, and as a citizen of the United States. Before I cite these comments, may I point out that the document of the WOPR is ridiculously large and verbose? Perhaps the BLM might make an effort in the future to use recycled paper so as not to spend all of its timber sale profits in such a wasteful manner.

First of all, as my partner and I look around at the living, but definitely no longer healthy, examples of the BLM's forest mismanagement, we are shocked that this organization continues to pursue and defend its antiquated, dysfunctional practices in general (not to mention any truly unacceptable plan revisions), based on the O & C act that was written 70 years ago in a very different environment than what exists in Oregon today. On top of that, the BLM continues to ignore and disregard the vast majority of its public's wishes: to protect and conserve ALL of the remaining old growth forest ecosystems, and to concentrate its *new* forest management efforts on second growth forests that have been previously logged and desperately need attention. If the BLM focused on these areas, it is possible that they might become less of a wildfire hazard, and provide wood for local (as opposed to corporate-owned) mills, and maybe even in time provide a healthier habitat for some of the currently threatened wildlife and freshwater ecosystems.

Second, it is not viable at this time to expect the timber industry and the BLM to fulfill the economic needs of Western Oregon, whether they decimate the last remaining old growth forests or not. The current surplus of timber, with board feet selling at a continually depreciating value, plus the devastating results of the high winds throughout the Northwest in earlier December 2007, indicate yet again that other, environmentally sustainable, industries must be encouraged.

We propose as an immediate tactic that the state of Oregon bail itself out by implementing at last a 3-5% statewide tax on all goods and services with the exceptions of food (unprepared) and clothing, thereby creating an income based on consumables and independent of any private industry while having less impact on the genuinely impoverished residents of the state.

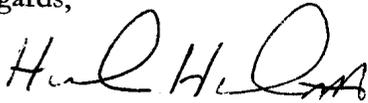
Speaking of impoverished, we believe that this beautiful state should no longer be economically and/or politically cornered into depleting and outright destroying its, and the rest of the nation's, precious and irreplaceable natural habitats. We thereby question thirdly the actual

legality of the out-of-court settlement by the Bush Administration that awarded a small segment of the private timber industry access to and destruction of these publicly owned forests. It seems that this settlement has stirred up the whole mess of the BLM's attempts to reconcile the O & C with the Endangered Species Act and the Northwest Forest Plan. Now is the time for the Oregon BLM to step back, observe the damage it has incurred so far and change its very premise from a not-successful middle-man of timber sales to above all a **conservational**, and only secondarily a *sustainable* timber-producing, organization.

Finally, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of our decisions in this time of dramatic change. Just as we look back at the follies of our ancestors, so shall our descendants look back at these times and wonder how we could have considered any option other than immediate conservation of these last remaining ecosystems of profound biodiversity. Please, take all steps necessary to protect these old growth forests once and for all, and to care for the second growth forests in a sustainable manner that benefits all of us.

Thank you.

Regards,



Heidi Haehlen
P.O. Box 1444
Jacksonville, Oregon
97530

CC: Oregon Congressional Delegation

Senator Ron Wyden
1220 SW 3rd Ave., Suite 585, Portland, OR 97204

Senator Gordon Smith
121 SW Salmon St., Suite 1250, Portland, OR 97204

Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-4th)
405 East 8th Ave. #2030, Eugene, OR 97401

Rep. Greg Walden (R-2nd)
843 East Main Street, Ste 400, Medford, OR 97504

Rep. Earl Blumenhauer (D-3rd)
729 N.E. Oregon St., Suite 115, Portland, OR 97232

Rep. Darlene Hooley (D-5th)
315 Mission Street SE #101, Salem, OR 97302

This letter and its envelope have been printed on 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper.