

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

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Dear BLM, I am **against** the Western Oregon Plan Revision (**WOPR**). Below are reasons **why the BLM's new logging plan is bad for Oregonians:**

1. **Not sustainable.** The logging levels called for in the WOPR are not sustainable. Cutting down 700% more old growth when we have so little left will leave us with zero ancient trees in a few years.
2. There is a **better way** forward. Many areas that have been logged in the past are now overgrown and ready to be cut. By practicing restorative thinning in these areas, we can meet the demand for timber, provide an influx of money to rural counties and reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire. All of this without cutting down trees that were already giants when Lewis and Clark first came to Oregon.
3. **Insufficient habitat protections.** The BLM plan does not adequately take into account protections provided by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Stream side logging buffers are reduced in a way that would harm water quality in streams where salmon spawn. In addition, habitat for owls and the marbled murrelet would be negatively impacted by clear-cut logging. In the Northwest Forest Plan, scientists concluded that endangered wildlife cannot be protected without adequate safeguards for old growth forests on BLM lands.
4. **It threatens healthy watersheds.** BLM lands also protect water quality for communities' drinking water. Diminished protection on these lands will affect the drinking water quality for the citizens of Salem, Albany, Corvallis, Eugene, and Roseburg, among others. Many rural residents rely on springs that originate on BLM lands. If these watersheds are not protected, their water supplies could be polluted or interrupted.
5. **It creates division and controversy.** The WOPR came as the result of a sweetheart deal between the Bush administration and the logging industry. It is a stark departure from the balanced approach of the Northwest Forest Plan. A plan to clear-cut our forest heritage is a plan that is sure to be met with controversy and skepticism. Reopening the wounds of the 1980s timber wars won't solve anything.
6. **It would diminish future economic benefits.** Many businesses rely on healthy rivers, fish populations, hiking opportunities and work in the woods. The commercial fishing industry depends on high quality salmon habitat. Cottage industries that harvest tree boughs for wreath making, collect commercial mushrooms, or take visitors rafting, fishing or hiking flourish on public forests in western Oregon. Responsible thinning of tree plantations and fuels reduction in

fire prone forests are important economic activities.

7. **It would negatively impact property values.** Property values in western Oregon are diminished by logging the surrounding beautiful forests, or by subjecting a property's water source to logging, herbicides, or ammonia-based fertilizers.

8. **Our quality of life would decline.** Healthy, standing forests provide a priceless living environment. Healthy, protected forests are one of the most important natural assets that Oregon's economy is based on. More logging on BLM lands diminish Oregon's quality of life and will reduce property values for those living near these lands. Public lands are where people go to find solitude, to walk their dogs, to hike, to hunt, and for children to explore and learn about nature.

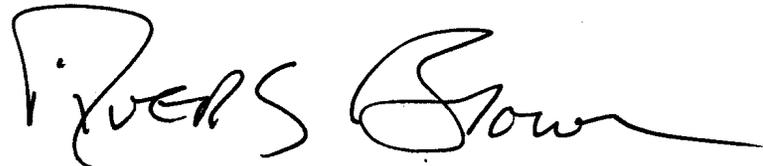
9. **Contributes to global warming.** Old-growth forests have been identified as an invaluable source for storing carbon. Healthy large trees help to keep carbon pollution out of the air and in their trunks and soil. As climate change becomes an increasing concern, the role of old growth in mitigating global warming is essential.

10. **Using our rural counties resources too quickly.** It is true that timber-dependent counties are struggling to provide services due to lagging budgets. However, forward-looking county commissioners like Dave Toler of Josephine County and Pete Sorenson of Lane County realize that logging old-growth isn't a long term solution. Cutting down all of the big trees will put us right back in the same, if not worse, place a few years from now.

11. **Every civilization that has ever fallen has cut their trees and lost their water.** Can we do better? Or is our civilization headed full steam ahead toward our own demise, at our own hands? A plan revision like this is a sure fire method to push us over the edge towards catastrophe. Even now, some of the once logged slopes in our Southern Oregon semiarid area are not growing back and will not in our lifetimes or the next. Please wake up, step outside whatever box you may be in, and take a look around at the deplorable condition we have put our forest lands in with rampant clearcutting. Please cancel this misguided plan, now, and forever.

Respectfully, Rivers Brown, 1067 Ashland Street, Ashland, Or. 97520

c.c. Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Gordon Smith
Representative Greg Walden
Governor Ted Kulongoski

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rivers Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.