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to: BLM

THIS IS A LETTER CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WESTERN OREGON PLAN REVISIONS. I AM STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THIS PLAN. I AM A CERTIFIED ORGANIC FARMER HERE IN WILLIAMS OREGON. I'VE BEEN FARMING ORGANICALLY FOR 25 YEARS. MY FARM IS SURROUNDED BY FOREST AND MY IRRIGATION WATER COMES FROM A CERTIFIED WATER RIGHT TO THE WEST FORK OF WILLIAMS CK. SO FOREST HEALTH, EROSION CONTROL, WATER PURITY, BIO-DIVERSITY, AND HABITAT STABILITY ARE CENTRAL TO MY LIVLIHOOD AND MY ABILITY TO SUPPLY QUALITY ORGANIC FOOD TO THE PUBLIC.

FOREST STABILITY, AND PROTECTION FOR ALL THE SPECIES OF THE FOREST ECOSYSTEM, SHOULD BE THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF THE AGENCY RESPONCIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THESE FORESTS. ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF HEALTHY SALMON RUNS, A THRIVING TOURIST AND RECREATION INDUSTRY, MUSHROOM AND MEDICINAL HERB HARVESTING, AND ORGANIC FARMING FAR OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS OF LOGGING. ALL THESE INDUSTRIES WOULD BENEFIT FROM REDUCED LOGGING. RATHER THAN FOCUS ON LOGGING YOU SHOULD FOCUS ON STEWARDSHIP WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THINNING PREVIOUSLY LOGGED STANDS FOLLOWING AN ECO-FORESTRY MODEL PROMOTING BIO-DIVERSITY.

CLEAR-CUT LOGGING IS EXTREMELY HARMFUL TO THE FOREST ECO-SYSTEM, CAUSING WIDESPREAD

EROSION, FRAGMENTATION, SPECIES ISOLATION AND EVENTUAL EXTINCTION, AND GENERAL FOREST DEGRADATION. CLEARCUTTING IS FOREST REMOVAL, SO MANY PROBLEMS IN THE FOREST HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY CLEARCUT LOGGING AND ALL THE ROAD SYSTEMS BUILT TO FACILITATE THIS UNSUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO RESOURCE EXTRACTION. PLEASE DISCONTINUE CLEARCUTTING AND OLD GROWTH LOGGING.

SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF THE ENVIRONMENT. THEY'VE WORKED HARD TO CREATE LAWS THAT PROTECT THE WATER, FOREST AND ANIMALS. THE NORTHWEST FOREST PLAN WAS CREATED AS A GUIDELINE FOR RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT. BEFORE THEN THE NORTHWEST HAD ENDURED SEVERAL DECADES WHERE THE AGENCIES (FOREST SERVICE, BLM) HAD MANAGED THE FOREST PRIMARILY FOR LOGGING. THERE WERE MANY SIGNS OF FOREST DEGRADATION FROM THAT ACTIVITY. ONE MAIN SIGN THAT LOGGING HAD BEEN EXCESSIVE, WAS THAT MANY 'INDICATOR SPECIES' POPULATIONS WERE IN PERIL. IF THE SPECIES THAT BEST MIRRORS THE HEALTH OF A PARTICULAR ENVIRONMENT IS IN DECLINE, THE ENVIRONMENT IS NOT BEING PROPERLY TAKEN CARE OF. SO ONCE ATTENTION WAS BEING FOCUSED ON THE HEALTH OF THE FOREST AND THE SPECIES THAT LIVE HERE, ALOT OF PROPOSED LOGGING SALES WERE STOPPED IN COURT. IT WAS NO MORE OVER-CUT BUSINESS AS USUAL.

THE WORK THAT BROUGHT US GREATER ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE NORTHWEST FOREST PLAN WAS GOOD WORK.

THE OVERCUTTING OF THE PAST WAS BAD WORK. IT'S DEFINITELY NOT TIME TO GO BACK TO A BAD THING. CORPORATE LOGGING INTERESTS ARE NOT IN THE INTEREST OF SOUTHERN OREGONIANS. THIS PLAN IS AN ATTEMPTED GIVE-AWAY TO THOSE INTERESTS. ITS A DISGRACE TO FOREST MANAGEMENT.

SO PLEASE DROP THIS PLAN; THERE IS NO WAY THAT THIS PLAN CONFORMS TO EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS. PLEASE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREST PROTECTION - NOT EXTRACTION. ALSO THE OHV PROVISION IN YOUR PLAN IS EXCESSIVE.

SINCERELY
CHI SCHERER