

Oregon State Office Bureau of Land Management
333 S.W. 1st. Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

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Dear BLM:

I actually read in detail some of the alternatives mentioned in the WOPR plan. Growing older tells me it is a constant battle with younger forces that think there isn't a quality of life to be found in Old Growth Forests. The Northwest forest plan was written by an incredibly diverse group, representing perhaps all interests except those of us who just gain health and strength from the incredible quietness in an old growth forest. None of your alternatives in the WOPR would preserve that. I am reminded of my visit to Denmark where I was expected to oooh and aah over an 8 foot diameter stump that had been preserved to show the future generations what used to be. I am told that appealing to the logging industry on personal, emotional issues is fruitless. I find it incredibly disheartening to know that humanity is not to be found in the upcoming management team at the BLM. I'm also told that science is also on the chopping block, that all that matters is the dollar, and the dollar of course is for today, not for the future—face it, even the WOPR will not meet the needs of the future if we continue to waste at the rate we as a species are doing.

So, I'll try and stick to the talking points: Don't compromise the habitat of endangered or threatened species, including all of the wonderful mosses found in old growth forests by following through on any of the alternatives in the WOPR. Don't compromise the water quality by allowing logging close to stream edges—I already see clearcuts way too close to stream banks and am told no one is monitoring the laws. I want a place for salmon to spawn, future generations to fish in a real forest.

Let's see, even under natural conditions, old growth will be lost to fires and natural disasters. We have no old growth acreage to spare!!!! When a tree or 5 in an old growth forest dies, let these forests that have been set aside for posterity renew themselves naturally and there will always be old growth, diversity of plants and animals—managed forests cannot by nature substitute.

I also worked a little for Roadless areas in some of our little touched wildernesses. My friends, especially the youth with belief in the system, would feel such pain to know that man and his machines were going in. And I mean this for forests that I and most others will never see. The forests are not just for the pleasure of humans. Stick with the Northwest Forest Plan as it was written by such a diverse group and includes a promise of wild forests, rivers, and old growth for the future. Enough has already been compromised—each decade sees a little more erosion, not just in the forests but in our laws of preservation.

Can't Oregon and other states spend a little more money on advertising the recreational opportunity of wilderness and bring more tourism to the state to view and recreate in some of our special places?

Thanks for reading.

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