

2341

RECEIVED

JAN 11 2008

Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office
333 SW 1st. Avenue Portland, OR 97204
or P.O. Box 2965 Portland, OR 97208

I watch several television news shows and scan through (reading parts in depth) two or more daily newspapers. But Tuesday on Channel 4 News was the first time I learned about the existence of WOPR. I guess it was on the back pages.

I was not, of course, able to download the entire 1650 page document. I downloaded the two sections that seemed most important for me to read, WOPR DEIS Chapter 2a and 2b -- The Alternatives, and I attempted to read them. That attempt convinced me that this document was devised by politicians to discourage Oregon citizens from commenting on the proposed destruction of a most important Oregon heritage.

The excess, circuitous, turgidly expressed verbiage lends an aura of scientific thought to the statements of "fact" alleged in this document. People would have seen through simple, clear English.

Most people and virtually all politicians know little about science. Therefore if you throw a lot of scientific sounding terms around at great length, people are impressed and believe you. I'm not impressed. The people who initiated this mess obviously know nothing about soil science, the valdose zone, the fungal web, the importance of the metabolic cycle in an ecosystem, and especially, you know nothing about the uncertainties in science.

To quote an actual BLM scientist (quoted in the Cottage Grove Sentinal), "There's quite a bit of scientific uncertainty about whether forests that experience man-made disturbance will come back to resemble stands that haven't been disturbed. I will not [say] we can rebuild everything about old growth forests. There are some examples of things we can rebuild, though. For example, I believe we can rebuild spotted owl habitat. But we can't rebuild fungal food webs."

To destroy the fungal food web in such a large area would be the equivalent of creating a "dead zone" in the ocean or the plankton in an oil slicked area of the ocean dying (then salmon runs fail, for instance). The problem is that we don't know exactly what will happen.

We know that the web of life in the valdose zone, the soil/earth layer between ground level and the saturation zone (water table) is extremely complex. For instance, increased monoculture causes decreased carbon sequestration in the valdose zone. The earth's valdose zone(s) provide approx. 80% of terrestrial carbon sequestration. Do we know how destruction of old growth forest affects the valdose zone? We do know that if something goes wrong, we can't fix it there.

The problem isn't lack of lumber income. The real problem is that Oregon started out dependent upon forestry for state revenues. When the Federal government stopped cutting so much lumber, they initially made up for the state's revenue loss. Our "brilliant" state politicians, wasted the money. It should have been used on education projects to help the public learn other careers, to fund creative new types of industries, and to teach the politicians how to break their addiction to these federal subsidies.

Now we're in trouble. And what is the solution? The politicians in Oregon and the BLM propose to solve their problems by continuing to make the same old mistakes. I read somewhere that trying to solve problems by repeatedly using methods that have never worked is insanity. It sure looks like it.

I won't even talk about the mismanagement of BLM's "managed" forests. But the result is that BLM is now greedily attempting to get the strong, tight 200 year old old-growth lumber.

Look guys, global warming really is happening. The entire solar system is warming (definitely higher temperatures on Mars and Pluto and I've read that Neptune is warmer than expected). One of the major effects of an enforced change in the temperature (such as by global warming or an ice age) is that climatic homeostasis is disturbed. In the Ocean, for instance, during an El Nino, the size of the temperature difference between the daily high temperature and the daily low temperature, (the "envelope of extremes") roughly doubles, even though the yearly overall temperature average rises only about two degrees F. Two degrees seems trivial. But the doubled range of daily temperature swings destroyed the Mexican anchovy industry in the 1970s.

The ocean is a heat sink which causes it to change temperature very slowly. The daily temperature "envelope of extremes" on land is much larger and can change quite rapidly. The land temperature homeostasis consequently makes much wider/faster temperature as it tries to reach equilibrium.

Start taking down those old trees and you may affect the wind patterns, the flood patterns, and the heat sinks that the forests provide. Many of the smaller trees will probably fall when the big winds come and they have no protection from the old-growth trees. And then there's that valdose zone and the effects on all living creatures when it's cover is removed while it's already having to adapt to a warming climate. Its ability to purify water could be severely compromised.

You pretend you're being scientific about this but you can't possibly know -- no one can know -- what harm WOPR may cause. And it's merely to feed short-term greed. BLM should adopt Napoleon's famous quote as a motto: "After me, the Flood!" (I think in French it's something like, "Apres moi, le deluge," but I probably misspelled it.)

Let's hope I'm totally wrong. But if the big climate changes hit, don't say I didn't warn you.

In the meantime, Oregon needs a "Truman Commission," to go to every governmental office in

Oregon to find out where the tax money is really going. I just read about some sort of Port renovation project that "wasted" enough millions of dollars to fund quite a few schools. And that's just one case of fiscal mismanagement -- the one that was uncovered. What about all the rest of them? The public keeps voting down tax revenue bills because less than 10% of the tax revenues usually go to the project it was supposed to be for. The rest goes to "social action" programs and the like. Oregon's fiscal problems will never improve unless politicians stop having such "sticky fingers" even if BLM cuts down and sells every tree in Oregon.

Raynelle Feinstein
P.O. Box 1125
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

P.S. There is another reason why I know you are deliberately doing your best to keep Oregon citizens from objecting to your tree grab. I have the latest version of Firefox and there was no way to file my comments online because Firefox does not have an Options choice under the Tools choice. (I then tried my older Internet Explorer and it does not offer an Internet Options choice.)