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January 11, 2008  
To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to voice my opinion of the Western Oregon Plan Revisions. I am of the mindset that we need all the trees we can get rooted firmly in the earth. Not only are they a great sink for carbon, but they are food and shelter for a multitude of creatures and they preserve watershed quality. When people speak of that cool, green place, that place where you can be a part of nature rather than apart from it, it is those deep woods, filled with tall, silent, serene trees that comes to mind.

I think this whole issue can be decided using common sense. First, no matter how we choose to see it, trees, insects, rocks, flowers and the like do not belong to us. Second, we have advanced the human agenda for thousands of years now and what we have to show for it is a planet in disrepair. Oceans filled with trash and chemicals. A mass extinction in play. Poisons filling the air. Soil that is dead from the use of mass amounts of fertilizers and pesticides and monoculture crops. People, that being to which we hold the highest regard, dying en masse via famine and disease.

So, it seems to me that, if this is what we have reaped, maybe we should start sowing something different. Maybe we need to start putting the best interest of the whole (as in, the entire planet and all its inhabitants) before the best interest of this one (very small) part (i.e. people). And, if we want to continue to inhabit this earth, we need to start thinking sustainably. As we take, we need to give back in equal portions. We should only take that which we need to survive, again re-sowing what we have taken. We need to have respect for all living things and realize that this planet survived billions of years without people and it can very well survive a future without people. However, we cannot survive without the earth, healthy and whole. Okay, I leave you with the words of Cedric Wright, who I am sure would not mind me evoking his words on behalf of the trees of which he speaks so eloquently.

*Consider the life of trees.  
Aside from the axe, what trees acquire from man is inconsiderable.  
What man may acquire from trees is immeasurable.  
From their mute forms there flows a poise, in silence;  
a lovely sound and motion in response to wind.  
What peace comes from those aware of the voice and bearing of  
trees!  
Trees do not scream for attention.  
A tree, a rock, has no pretence, only a real growth out of itself,  
in close communion with the universal spirit.  
A tree retains a deep serenity.  
It establishes in the earth not only its root system but also  
those roots of its beauty and its unknown consciousness.  
Sometimes one may sense a glimmer of that consciousness, and with  
such perspective, feel that man is not necessarily the highest  
form of life.  
-Cedric Wright*

With sincerest regards,  
*Sara Dinneen*  
Sara Dinneen, age 26