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

Dear BLM,

We are very frightened with the direction the Bush Administration is headed with the management of nearly 2.6 million acres of federal forests under the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR). The changes the BLM are contemplating will unravel the protections of the landmark Northwest Forest Plan. WOPR is the result of a sweetheart settlement between the timber industry and the Bush Administration and with all likelihood reversed under a new administration.

The Bush Administration's preferred alternative proposes to clear-cut 110,000 acres of Oregon's old growth forests and build 1,000 miles of new logging roads every decade. The WOPR Draft Environmental Impact statement (DEIS) fails to take into account Global Warming! An error so egregious as to make the validity of the entire document questionable. The WOPR (DEIS) when compared with the Northwest Forest Plan's DEIS lacks the rigor and scientific input of the plan it is attempting to replace.

Healthy, protected forests are one of Oregon's most important natural assets. While rampant old growth clear cutting promises short-term economic boon to a few well-connected mill owners, an economic bust is easily foreseeable under the Bush plan as fish, wildlife and the old growth they rely on dwindle. Furthermore Global Warming will be worsened under this proposal because old growth timber is much more effective as a "carbon sink" than tree plantations. This position is even supported by Oregon's School of Forestry.

Most Oregonians (for that matter Americans) want public land managers to embrace thinning second growth forests, safeguard communities from wildfire and protect what remains of our ancient forests. This premise is considered fact in Oregon's School of Forestry and they direct mill owners to focus their future in this direction.

WOPR is not needed. It is an illegal assault on the Northwest Forest Plan. Please protect remaining old-growth forests, focus active management of BLM lands in already logged-over areas and create job opportunities in restoration thinning projects that benefit watersheds and generate wood product without multiplying past mistakes.

Sincerely,

Gail Kauffman
Gail Kauffman


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