

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

RECEIVED

2445
1-3-07

Re: BLM Western Oregon Plan Revisions

JAN 11 2008

Dear BLM,

I am very concerned with the direction the Bush Administration is headed in with the management of nearly 2.6 million acres of federal forests under the Western Oregon Plan Revisions. The changes that the BLM is contemplating will unravel the protections of the landmark Northwest Forest Plan, and may lead to water pollution, degraded habitat, and increased conflict and controversy.

Your current proposal is unacceptable. The agency proposes to increase old-growth logging on public lands in western Oregon by 700%, build 1,000 miles of new logging road in the next decade and clearcut at a 9-1 ratio to thinning. This is a myopic and backwards proposal that depletes our natural resource base for future generations by weakening protections for forests, creeks and salmon. Shockingly, the proposal ignores the role that these forests play in regulating the climate.

Most Americans want federal land managers to embrace thinning second growth forests, safeguard communities from wildfire and protect what remains of our nation's ancient forests. By focusing on previously logged public forestlands - many of which are now overgrown and in need of thinning - they are providing wood to local mills while actually improving conditions for fish and wildlife and keeping saws out of precious old-growth forests.

In contrast, the WOPR proposes to inflame the controversy by increasing old-growth clear-cutting for a short-term economic fix. The WOPR puts water quality at-risk and would destroy some of Oregon's most special places. We should protect our remaining mature and old-growth forests on public land, not clear-cut these natural treasures as the WOPR proposes to do.

It is disappointing that at a time when public consensus for old-growth protection and second-growth thinning has never been stronger, the BLM is proposing to clear-cut forests older than our nation and turn complex ecosystems into flammable tree farms.

Please protect remaining old-growth forests, focus active management of BLM lands in already logged-over areas, and concentrate job opportunities in restoration forestry that would benefit watersheds and generate wood products without multiplying past mistakes

Sincerely,

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Ashland

CC: Oregon Congressional delegation

*please see additional
comments →
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Senator Ron Wyden
1220 SW 3rd Ave., Suite 585
Portland, OR 97204

Senator Gordon Smith
121 SW Salmon St., Suite 1250
Portland, OR 97204

Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-4th)
405 East 8th Ave. #2030
Eugene, OR 97401

Rep. Greg Walden (R-2nd)
843 East Main Street, Ste 400
Medford, OR 97504

Rep. Earl Blumenhauer (D-3rd)
729 N.E. Oregon St., Suite 115
Portland, OR 97232

Rep. Darlene Hooley (D-5th)
315 Mission Street SE #101
Salem, Oregon 97302

Rep. David Wu (D-1st)
620 SW Main, Suite 606
Portland, OR 97205

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for extending the comment period. Please consider looking into current research that indicates that Southern Oregon has very rare & endemic species that we as earthlings cannot afford to lose.

The State of Oregon could make millions of dollars a year off of Eco-tourism, showing off the last great trees. Give us a chance to study the mushrooms in these forests before destroying the only habitat available for some of them. Please contact me if you have any questions of how we would do this

Thank you, Carrie Zee