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JAN 11 2008

Rex Sebring
440 NW Elks Drive # 217
Corvallis, OR 97330

RE: BLM Western Oregon Plan Revision public comment on proposed alternatives

I am writing today to urge the BLM to adopt the 3rd Alternative plan, "No Change"

Not only are old-growth forests the repository of water resources and future genetic resources for both plant and animal species they are important in climate stability.

As a resident of Oregon since 1970 I have watched our forested areas shrink and am troubled to think that my great grandchildren will face the negative impacts of climate change brought about in part by such massive deforestation as we have seen during this last quarter of a century.

Even now we are learning more every day about the benefits of old-growth forests. Please preserve the small areas that BLM administers as part of the public lands you hold in trust for all the America people. Please keep these old trees alive and providing the water and soil preservation services we all use and need.

The Wind River Canopy Crane Research Facility (WRCCRF) was established in 1994 as a cooperative scientific and educational venture among the University of Washington College of Forest Resources, the USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station, and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. <http://depts.washington.edu/wrccrf/>

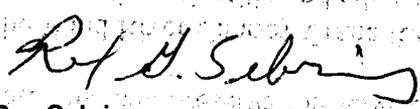
Excerpts from article By **Sandi Doughton**
Seattle Times science reporter

.....The crane and the research area that surrounds it have already helped answer several fundamental questions about forests and their ability to counteract global warming.

It was here that scientists put to rest the myth that mature forests are biologically moribund. By rising above the treetops, they were able to take measurements that showed old forests continue to grow and act as a sink for carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas.

Studies here also proved it doesn't make sense from a global-warming perspective to cut older forests and replace them with seedlings, which grow faster and had been thought to absorb more carbon dioxide. Old forests are storehouses for such vast amounts of carbon that it would take many decades for new forests to catch up on the carbon balance sheet.....

Thank you for taking public comment on this important issue.



Rex Sebring