

Western Oregon Plan Revisions
PO Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

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FORM LETTER -
GREENPIECE

Dear BLM State Director Shepard,

These are my official comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Western Oregon Plan Revisions.

I object strongly to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plan to cut protections for old-growth forests, streams and rivers on over 2 million acres of public land in Oregon. The DEIS is fundamentally flawed and should be reworked to protect native forests, wildlife and watersheds.

Old-growth forest logging is not economically or ecologically sustainable. Instead of increasing old-growth logging, the BLM should focus on science-based restoration of degraded landscapes. Doing so will not only improve forest health, but also provide jobs and a steady flow of wood as a by-product. This is the best way to meet the long-term economic needs of rural communities.

Communities depend on BLM lands as watersheds for drinking water and fish habitat. If these watersheds are not protected, drinking water supplies will be degraded and wild salmon and trout could suffer. As Oregon communities grow and development spreads, clean water will become even more valuable to healthy economies.

Natural forests also support a quality of life that fuels economic growth in Oregon. More logging on BLM lands would degrade the quality of life for residents of local communities in a host of ways – from ruining recreation resources and increasing fire risk to spoiling viewsheds and reducing property values.

Instead of stepping into the future, BLM is falling backward and repeating mistakes of the past. New economic realities need a new approach – not more taxpayer subsidized logging of old-growth forests. BLM should scrap the DEIS and craft a new plan that protects forests, clean water, wildlife, and the long-term health of rural communities.

Sincerely,

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