

October 15, 2007

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

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Dear BLM:

I wish to express, in the strongest possible terms, my opposition to the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR). As a resident of the Little Applegate Valley, I am terribly concerned that the proposed widespread clear-cutting of public forests would reduce the property values and quality of life for myself and thousands of my neighbors, who live near BLM lands. My husband and I moved to Southern Oregon seven years ago because we love the natural beauty and the peace and quiet of the Siskiyou Mountains. By creating over 1,000 miles of new logging road and 140,000 acres of clear-cuts in the first decade alone, the BLM would scar the landscape beyond recognition. Furthermore, the proposed "Off Highway Vehicle Emphasis Areas" would threaten the serenity of the area for residents, wildlife, and tourists. Tourism is a very large part of the local economy, and WOPR would definitely diminish the attractiveness of this area as a tourist destination.

By converting moist old growth forests into dry, flammable tree plantations, the WOPR would place our communities at increased risk from wildfires, not to mention the devastating effect this would have on native animals, plants, and fish. Shockingly, the proposal ignores the role that these forests play in regulating the climate.

In my view, it is absolutely not acceptable to log old-growth forests on public lands, much less clear-cut them. I find it unconscionable to put 2,000 square miles of forest (an area the size of Delaware) into 'Timber Management Areas', where clear-cutting is emphasized. Furthermore, I urge you to radically limit any off-road vehicle use of BLM lands. This is a highly-destructive and objectionable activity that should be restricted, rather than encouraged.

The Northwest Forest Plan is a landmark agreement that protects threatened old growth species while producing timber in compliance with environmental law. Removing BLM forests from this plan would unravel the whole fabric of the plan and invite years of costly and unproductive law suits. A far better plan is to protect mature and ancient forests while thinning second-growth forests. Thinning small-diameter trees could offer upwards of 2 billion board feet of commercially valuable timber if actively thinned, while decreasing the risk of wildfire and preserving our forests for generations to come.

I urge you to protect the remaining old-growth forests, focus on active management of BLM lands in already logged-over areas, and create job opportunities in restoration thinning projects that benefit watersheds and generate wood products without multiplying past mistakes.

You are the stewards of our precious public lands. You must not betray your trust for the benefit of a few large timber companies. I urge you to maintain the Northwest Forest Plan and abandon the WOPR.

Sincerely,



Deborah Rennie
9627 Sterling Creek Rd.
Jacksonville, OR 97530

Cc: Oregon Congressional delegation

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Portland, OR 97204

Senator Gordon Smith
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Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-4th)
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Rep. Earl Blumenhauer (D-3rd)
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Rep. Darlene Hooley (D-5th)
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Rep. David Wu (D-1st)
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