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October 12, 2007

Dear BLM,

The management of our federal forests under the Western Oregon Plan Revisions, would have a negative impact on our old-growth forests. I understand that the Administration's preferred alternative proposes to clearcut 110,000 acres and build new logging roads each decade. Years ago, timber production was paramount above all else. Most Americans today expect thinning of second growth forests, protecting communities from wildfire, and safeguarding what remains of our nation's ancient forests. That's what federal land managers are trained to do. You know the science involved, so let the Administration hear your concerns about water quality, threatened species, roadless areas, and non-motorized recreation.

As you well know, the forest plays a vital role in regulating the climate.

Also, a concern is the thousands of miles of new Off Highway Vehicle Emphasis Areas that will be built. I live in an area that has seen the erosion and deplorable damage caused by OHV use. There is no accountability for the riders, at the expense of destroying our "quiet" forests.

It appears that the main reason for the new "management" of our federal forests is to help solve budget problems. The Administration's proposal of clearcutting is extremely irresponsible, and may appease a few political donors. Hopefully the BLM will listen to public opinion, and use its science background to convince the powers that be, that another approach is necessary. Thanks for your consideration.

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