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October 12, 2007
1920 Tyler Creek Road
Ashland, OR 97520

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State Director
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

Dear Director:

This letter is to express my feelings regarding the BLM's proposed Western Oregon Plan Revisions to the Northwest Forest Plan (WOPR). I wrote to you previously in December, 2005 on this issue and received no reply. Now I understand the BLM's revisions are again up for comment.

As I understand it, these changes in WOPR will favor timber harvesting at the expense of other forest uses. I own 100 acres in T40S, R3E, Section 6, adjacent to the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument and live here permanently, year round. I am concerned that changes to the BLM's management plan will exacerbate runoff problems which we are experiencing due to increased tree removal and irresponsible irrigation systems (i.e. the Greensprings powerplant and Tyler Creek "wasteway") managed by the Bureau of Reclamation.

I am also concerned about water quality issues, wildlife, and recreation uses, such as the Pacific Crest Trail, that more timber harvesting would affect in my area.. If you consider what has been happening over the last several years with regards to climate change and the severity of storm events, you would realize that BLM should be more concerned about this, too. Clearcutting enhances the effects of global warming by removing cover which absorbs CO2 and increasing the severity of fires by replacing large fire-resistant trees with slash and brush.

I've owned my land in Ashland since 1985, but just moved here permanently in 2002. During this time we have had two major flood events. Residents at the Century Farm down the hill said they have never seen floods like the ones we've been having. Waters from the Bear Creek drainage, upstream from Emmigrant reservoir, forced the closure of state highway 66 and debris was scattered over county roads and adjacent farmland in December of 2005. Two things that readily come to mind to explain this recent flooding is 1) the changes to climate, and 2) increased tree removal on adjacent private lands.

As I have told the Bureau of Reclamation with regard to their practice of dumping water down steep, geologically unstable areas in T40S, R3E, Sections 5 and 6, I understand that climate is beyond the government's control, but it is simple negligence and disregard for life and property for you to continue unsound practices, regardless of the benefits to the administration's friends in the logging industry. The small amount of BLM land that

exists here has been eroded beyond belief by irrigation practices, logging and storm events. If any of these areas should be clearcut, the result would be catastrophic for the whole neighborhood.

In sum, whether people like or not, the forests have changed. More private property owners have built in or near public lands for the beauty and solitude they provide. In addition, climate is changing and much of the remaining forests in this area have already been logged. This is not the time to return to the "good old days" of resource exploitation and disregard of environmental factors. Please protect our remaining native forests and comply with existing environmental laws. Keep the Northwest Forest Plan as it is for BLM lands in western and southern Oregon.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Edwards".

Catherine Edwards

cc: Rep. Greg Walden
Sen. Ron Wyden
Sen. Gordon Smith