

25 October 2007

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WOPR  
PO Box 2965  
Portland OR 97408

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Dear BLM staff:

I would like to provide one citizen's comments regarding the proposed revisions. Since I live and work full-time in Roseburg, the proposal will have a direct impact on my life. However, I think the larger consideration is not the personal impact this plan would have, but rather the broad impact for future generations.

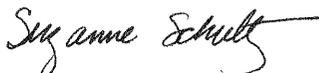
The current scientific assessments provide evidence that the existing areas reserved for endangered species protection cannot be reduced to the acreage in the proposal. A decrease from 470,000 to 34,000 is unacceptable, particularly since the motive behind such a reduction is the claim of the timber industry that they require more accessibility on PUBLIC lands. You, as the steward for the American population--contemporary and future--must perceive the long range need for such lands and species (e.g., the owls and murrelets) to be protected.

Further, the proposal would permit clear-cuts near some small streams with a "no-tree buffer." That language alone should alert you to the already measured consequences of such moves on salmon habitat and viability. Add in the evidence just now documented of wild and farmed salmon having indeed different physiological properties for survival, and clearly you see the importance of maintaining what regulations are in place with the Northwest Forest Plan.

However, my most vehement opposition to the WOPR is based on the loss of protection for the remaining old growth timber that the plan would allow. There is no need to allow the cutting of these "in dangered" wonders and their ecosystems. They can not be replaced with tree farms; the parallel is utterly unfounded. The giants that provide a key element of our blessed Northwest nature are unique; their contributions are in some ways immeasurable. In these times of evidence of the impact of global warming, we should be engaging in extra efforts to foster our natural arboreta, not destroy them. The current wildfires in California are an indicator of what could happen here in Douglas County if the revisions are enacted.

Please carefully weigh the evidence of science and public opinion as you deliberate. Both of these data sets support continued protection of our old growth, and in support of second-growth thinning.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Suzanne Schultz  
1160 Garden Grove  
Roseburg OR 97470

cc: Sen. Ron Wyden  
Sen. Gordon Smith  
Rep. Peter DeFazio