

John and Stephanie Bullock

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October 22, 2007

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

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Sirs:

I do not hold title as a Forester, Economist, Fire Suppression Expert, Botanist, Fisheries Biologist, Recreation Specialist, Water Quality Chemist, or any other area of expertise that would enable me to address the effects of the preferred alternative(s) put forth in the Western Oregon Plan Revision of the Northwest Forest Plan at the level to which I was advised at the BLM workshop I attended in Ashland in September, 2007. I'm simply a citizen who has lived near and recreated on wildlands for the majority of my life, and realizes that what the BLM prefers to do under the revised plan is counter to what my experience of good forest management stands for.

Although I will be more specific later, the basic detriment of the preferred alternative of WOPR (Alternative 2) is a general lowering of the quality of life here in Oregon, particularly in the Medford district. Oregon has a proud heritage of forest land, and if Alternative 2, or 3 or 4 are implemented, I know my quality of life will be affected adversely.

I fish, specifically for anadromous species in the Rogue and Umpqua watersheds. Your plans call for a drastic reduction in streamside buffers, which will adversely affect water quality and temperature critical to young fish. Erosion from the proximate clearcutting, road construction, and the reduction of streamside shade vegetation spell disaster for fish.

Fire: It has been well-proven that old growth forests are far more resistant to fire than plantation-type forests. Not only are old growth forests a valuable refuge for endangered species such as the spotted owl and marbled murrelet, they serve as islands for regeneration of what was once a vast ecosystem of the natural climax forest cycle. I would admonish the BLM to concentrate on the thinning of existing "plantations" which will reduce the disastrous effects of wildfire. The roads exist, the timber is there. Please concentrate your efforts in these areas rather than decimate what's left of our old growth heritage.

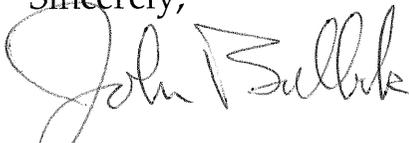
ORV use: I have a strong bias against the use of ORVs. Period. They rape the landscape. You cannot control them, because no matter how many "designated areas" you set aside, the intent of this type of recreation is to always go beyond the set boundaries. Its simply the nature of the sport, to be free and wild and to go where the challenge is: beyond the "legal" limit set by whatever agency. I am appalled that the BLM is considering a dozen or more new areas for this type of "recreation" for a minority of forest land users whose regard for quiet, solitude and the integrity of soils and wildlife are churned aside with a twist of the throttle.

We know that the climate of our planet is changing to the detriment of all life. Old growth forests retain moisture and again, resist fire, thereby reducing the amount of carbon in the atmosphere. It would be criminal to eliminate even the smallest opportunity to gain in the battle of global warming.

Sustainability: The preferred alternative(s) of the WOPR do not represent sustainability. Clearcutting old growth forests instead of thinning existing plantations simply provides a short-term gain for the timber industry, and a criminal loss of ancient reserves of biological diversity. As one who attempts to live a personal life of sustainability, I would admonish the BLM to take up the challenge of operating their agency in a sustainable mode, and not one for the short-term profit of the timber industry.

I am 62 years old. I have two beautiful grandchildren, who I want to experience the forest heritage that I have been fortunate to enjoy. Their chances of doing so will be greatly reduced if the WOPR preferred alternative(s) are implemented. Although the original Northwest Forest Plan was flawed to begin with, I would prefer the "No Alternative" choice, and would hope that in the near future, my government representatives will revisit the original plan with the goal of managing our forests for the benefit of people and wildlife. But implementing any of the BLM preferred alternatives would NOT be looking to the future. Rather, they represent the past, and I hope the BLM will begin to move into the 21st century by realizing that their plans reflect a way of life and a mentality no longer viable or preferred by the majority of people in this state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Bullock". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

John Bullock