

To: Bureau of Land Management

Subject: Comments for Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR)

November 9, 2007

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- I am very concerned with the direction the Bush Administration is headed in the management of nearly 2.6 million acres of federal forests under the Western Oregon Plan Revisions. The changes the Bureau of Land Management is contemplating will unravel the protections of the landmark Northwest Forest Plan, and will lead to water pollution, degraded habitat, and increased conflict and controversy.

- The economic vigor of our community should not depend on an increased level of timber extraction. Rather than hitch our stability to a highly volatile industry that has over-harvested much of the region, we should continue economic diversification and adjust to a leaner, trimmer timber industry based on restoration thinning, not old growth clear cutting. While timber is certainly a piece of southern Oregon's economy, it is but one amongst a variety of resources and value that forests provide. Forests supply ecological services such as water filtration, soil stabilization, air purification and climate control that are vital to a healthy future.

- I am opposed to the designation of 13 "Off Highway Vehicle Emphasis Areas" concentrating OHV use on more than 100,000 acres in the area between Ashland, Jacksonville, Gold Hill, Rogue River, Grants Pass and the Illinois Valley. More than half of the acreage is privately held – not BLM land. The plan encourages OHV usage and actively discourages other forms of "quiet type" recreation like bird-watching, camping, fishing, hiking and botanizing. Focusing on OHV use when all other outdoor recreation is far greater is a serious mistake. I do not want more OHV use in our surrounding areas. This kind of activity is not appropriate nor in the best interest for the homeowners who live within the boundaries and has significant negative implications for the future of outdoor tourism for this entire area.

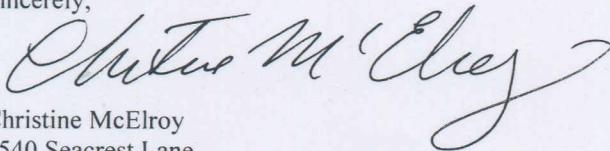
- The WOPR ignores environmental protections in the O&C Act, as well as the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act and other laws put in place to protect these forests and streams. The WOPR puts creating more tree plantations ahead of protecting clean water, wildlife habitat, recreation or producing a reliable small diameter wood supply.

The WOPR proposes to inflame the controversy by increasing old-growth clear cutting for a short-term economic fix. The WOPR puts water quality at risk and would destroy some of Oregon's most special places. We should protect our remaining mature and old-growth forests on public land, not clear-cut these natural treasures. It is disappointing that at a time when public consensus for old-growth protection and second-growth thinning has never been stronger, the BLM is proposing to clear-cut forests older than our nation and turn complex ecosystems

into tree plantations most susceptible to severe wildfire.

Please protect remaining old-growth forests, focus 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.

Sincerely,



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