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U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon Plan Revision
P.O.B. 2965
Portland, Oregon 97208

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January 5, 2007

Dear People at BLM:

Last Thursday I learned that the Bureau of Land Management has been working for several months on a plan to revise Alternative 2 of W.O.P.R. The proposed changes of Timber Management Areas (TMA), and Late Successional Management Areas (LSMA) are extensive, at least on maps of the southwestern quarter of the Eugene District that is near Veneta and Crow. Too little time is left before the comment period is over for me to respond to all of the changes under consideration. I will draw your attention to just one instance of proposed change that will have a strongly negative impact.

The beautiful old-growth grove on Wolf Creek called the Grandmothers of Wolf Creek, which is in T. 19S. R.06W. Sec. 17, and was formerly protected as a LSMA, under the changes will be part of the TMA area, and subject to clearcut.

I live in a rural area near Crow, about 12 miles from the Grandmothers' Grove. For several years the grove has been one of my favorite places to take short hikes. I have arthritis in one foot, which somewhat limits my mobility, but even without developed trails the grove affords several fine hikes.

One of the great advantages of the Grove is that it is on Wolf Creek Road, which is paved. This makes access easy any time of the week or year. There are no other old growth groves accessible from paved roads that are nearer to Crow than the Grandmothers Grove. Stands of old growth along the C-Line are accessible only from gravel roads which are hazardous to travel during the week, because of logging trucks. Parts of the C-Line are muddy in wet weather. In any case, all of the groves along the C-Line will be opened for clearcut if the proposed changes to Alternative 2 are adopted.

It is important to preserve for hiking and recreation any easily accessible old-growth stands that are situated in the Coast Range near the metropolitan area of Eugene. (Crow is outside Eugene's metropolitan boundary, but still ~~a part of the metropolitan area~~). The Grandmothers Grove is one of the most accessible, if not the most accessible. Please keep this grove as a Late Successional Management Area for the benefit of Lane County residents and visitors.

Sincerely yours,

George Gessert

cc: Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Gordon Smith
Representative Peter DeFazio

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