

Help Protect the Waldo-Takilma Forest

BLM Proposes Logging in the West Fork Illinois Watershed

The Medford Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released plans to log parts of the beautiful Waldo-Takilma forest in the Illinois River Valley. Public comments on the logging plans, called the West Fork Illinois Landscape Management Project Environmental Assessment, are due September 30st. PLEASE TAKE ACTION TODAY!

THE LAND

- * The West Fork Illinois river is the number one watershed out of 1,400 for rare species (according to the Oregon Natural Heritage Database).
- * The West Fork Illinois has important spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and steelhead. Elk Creek and its tributaries provide some of the best habitat in the entire Rogue Basin for endangered Coho salmon.
- * The eastern portion of the West Fork Illinois project area overlaps an area nominated by the public as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

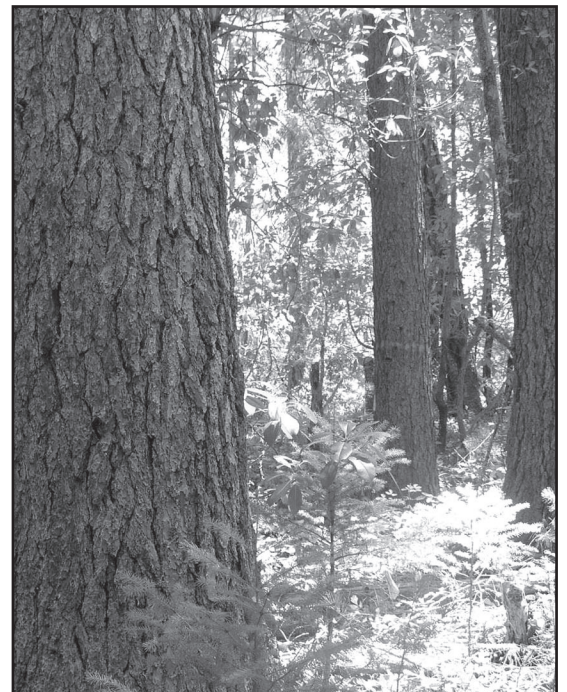
THE BLM PLAN

- * The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans to log most of the non-serpentine forests in the West Fork drainage.
- * Logging would decrease canopy cover, and increase fire risk.
- * Logging will occur in Riparian Reserves in Alternative 2.
- * Logging will be conducted largely through skyline and tractor methods, compacting soils, increasing risk of erosion and spread of invasive weeds.
- * In serpentine areas, fuel treatments will include use of the “slashbuster,” a machine that can increase severity of ground fires.



The West Fork Illinois River watershed is a special place that deserves special attention.

Please send comments to the BLM on this project and help keep it wild!



Tell the BLM to take the Community and Conservation Approach

1. Log in less of the units and institute a diameter limit of 20" diameter breast height (dbh) to protect the largest, oldest and most fire-resistant trees for wildlife and recreation. Retain high canopy closure (over 60% when possible) so that forests function as high quality wildlife habitat for closed canopy dependent species (such as spotted owl, red tree vole and Del Norte salamander) and provide the shade and hiding cover for deer, bear and other animals.

2. Logging and opening up the forest often increases the risk of severe fire. Flammable slash will be created, the forest floor will be hotter and drier and brush species will sprout creating dense flammable fuel.

3. No logging in Riparian Reserves. These areas are critical for water quality, salmon and are important wildlife corridors.

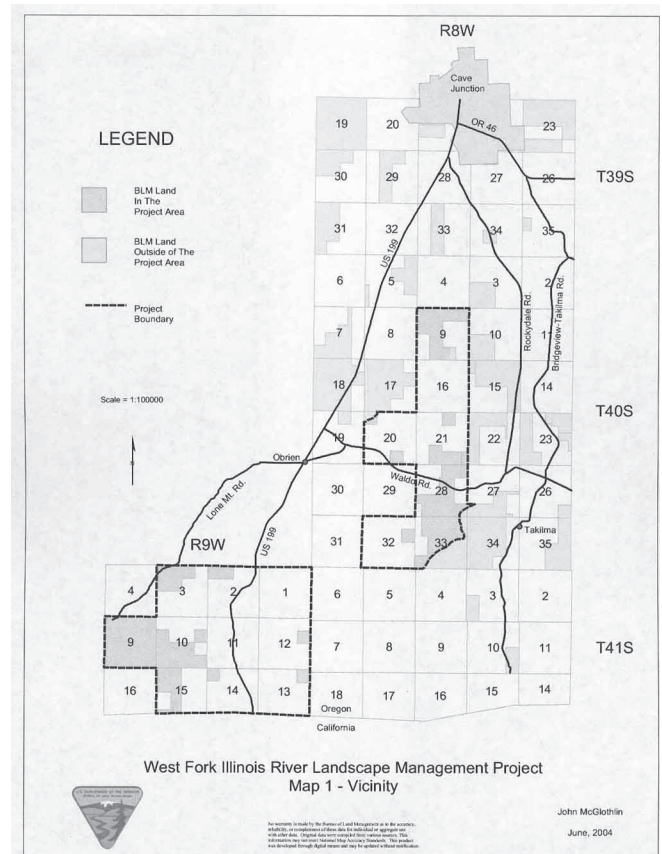
4. Protect the serpentine lands. These areas are globally unique and a part of the "Illinois Valley Botanical Emphasis Area". No slashbuster use in these areas. Fuel reduction should be varied and selective.

5. Concentrate on safety of residential areas. Perform intensive fuels reduction within 300 yards of homes and other structures where it will do the most good. Native forests in the Illinois River watershed should not be logged.

6. Retain closed canopy forests for their Scenic, recreational, quality of life and wildlife values. These forests are close to residential areas and are the tracts of native forest that make the residents of the Illinois Valley glad we live here.

7. No logging in places nominated for Area of Critical Environmental Concern status.

8. The alternatives provided by the BLM in the West Fork Illinois Landscape Management Project Environmental Assessment are not sufficient – there should have been a restoration and fire safety alternative without industrial logging.



COMMENTS DUE SEPTEMBER 30

Send comments to:

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