Facing Disaster

BLM Announces New Forest Plan

Current plan to be scrapped

On Feb 11th, 2026, I was alerted to the BLM's intention to scrap their 2016 resource management plan (RMP). Sure enough, on Feb 19th the BLM published a "***Notice of Intent"*** in the Federal Register.

At the same time, I received a press release from **Oregon Wild** alerting the public that special places were at risk from the BLM's new planning effort. Special places in the BLM's planning world are called ***Areas of Critical Environmental Concern*** or ACECs.

Local press picked up on the special places theme, and I received several phone calls from supporters concerned about an ACEC such as, for example, Alsea Falls. All of which caused me to wonder "*had I read the BLM's initial notice wrong*?"

The BLM's legal notice is clear. "*The purpose of the RMP revision is to seek an increase in sustained yield of timber harvest that aligns with the historically higher levels of production.*" And "*The preliminary alternative would manage*

*BLM-administered lands to provide a sustained yield of timber production consistent with **the maximum productive capacity of the lands**.*"

The BLM is saying they plan to achieve **timber cutting at maximum capacity** across 2.4+ million acres of ownership. I sympathize with a concern for a special place like Alsea Falls? **But, the Trump people are going after everything!**

In the Federal Register notice the BLM states "*Harvests peaked in 1964 at approximately 1.638 billion board feet and averaged about 1.078 billion board feet annually from 1960 through 1989, prior to the Northern Spotted Owl listing*."

ACECs in the current RMP amount to about 90,000 acres. In contrast, the current plan has 1,584,183 acres in Late-Successional and Riparian Reserves. The last time I checked, 1,584,183 acres is 17 times larger than 90,000 acres.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is scheduled to be published on June 12th, and a final decision is schedule for November 6th – two days after the fall general election.

When the BLM announced the new plan, I was surprised. Coupled with the ongoing plan revision process for Forest Service lands, the Trump regime is going after the **entire federal forest estate**.

If the BLM's rationale of maximum production is a clue, the Forest Service revision will be similar. In other words, we are facing a potential **forest disaster**.

I'll donate to help stop the BLM's Plan

Climate Warming is Real and Accelerating

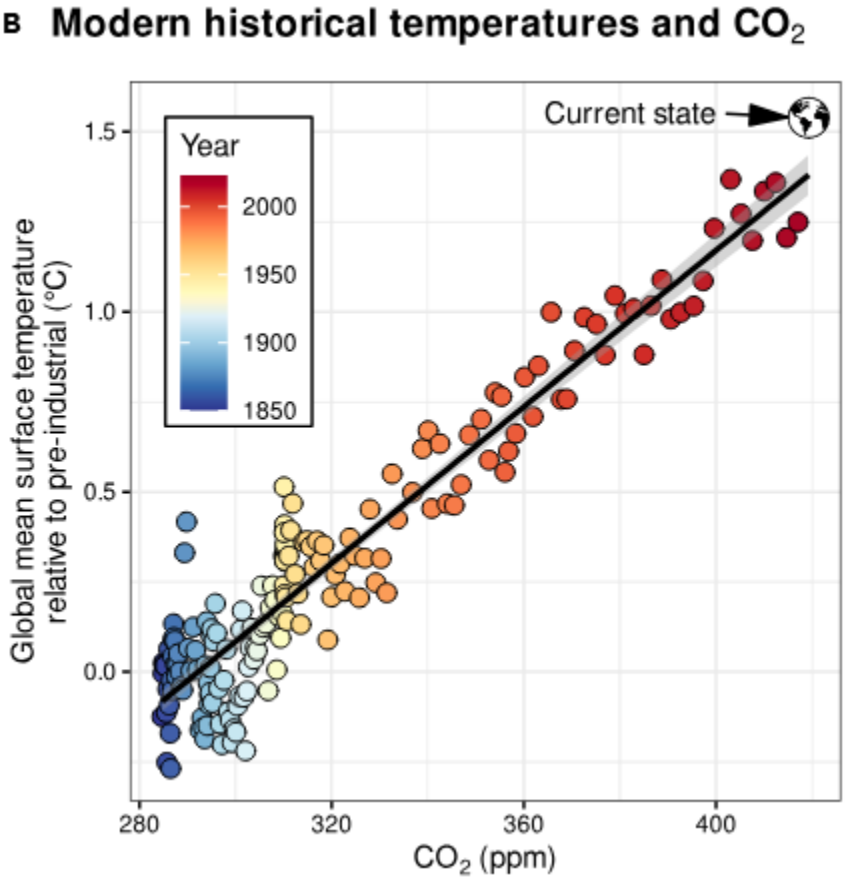
On the same day as the BLM's announcement, I was alerted to yet another science warning about climate. Titled ***The risk of a hothouse Earth trajectory***, the paper outlined the ever-increasing risk of sending global climate into a self-feeding warming spiral.

Such a run-away process ends in what scientists' term "hothouse earth." In this outcome, tropical plants are growing in Alaska and most of the earth becomes uninhabitable for people.

The lead author for the paper, like previous science warnings, was none other than OSU's Bill Ripple. My alert to the paper came from the OSU College of Forestry. Here's a link to the press release: **Course correction needed quickly**.

Falling into hothouse earth only takes crossing a small number of tipping points. The paper states "*Tipping may already be underway or could occur soon for the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets, boreal permafrost, mountain glaciers, and parts of the Amazon rainforest*."

Given the understated writing style used by scientists, one might miss the point – **we are possibly on a runaway train heading for catastrophe!**



An earlier research report by the British Antarctic Survey states "*It appears that we may have lost control of the West Antarctic ice shelf melting over the 21st century.*" The Survey group made a one-minute video of their report. Here's the link: [Antarctic research]

The one consistent thread through all climate science is atmospheric CO2 is causing climate warming. The graph above is slam dunk

evidence, along with the known physics of gas heat transfer. Greenhouse gases are driving the warming.

Of course, CO2 comes from burning fossil fuels. The planet is currently at 420 parts per million of atmospheric CO2. **A level not seen since the Pliocene age - 3.3 million years ago!** And the CO2 level continues to rise.

All the while, the corrupt Trump regime **denies** climate warming and shills for the oil and gas industries. The Trump power complex had four years to plan a rapid implementation of their agenda. Behind everything is either the pro-Trump destruction group of nutty billionaires or spineless corporate leaders who have fallen in line.

DO NOT Destroy Our High Carbon Forests

Every ton of fossil fuels burned today came from vegetation growing millions of years ago. We now know how exceptional, on a global scale, our federal forests are **for removing CO2 from the air.** On a per acre basis, our wet forests sequester more carbon than any other forest in the world.

In the face of climate warming, only a liar like Trump would send the BLM or the Forest Service down paths of carbon emitting forest destruction.

Below is the breakdown of the current (2016) BLM plan. These are important numbers. Notice that 604,784 acres are currently in stream buffers (Riparian Reserves). The BLM says in the ***Federal Register Notice*** they will take that number to 148,875 (6% of the land base). **That's a 75% reduction in stream protections!**

Good Grief! Here's My Donation

Current BLM Plan

Forest Reserves	Acres
Structurally-Complex Forest	427,881
Large Block Forest Reserve – Moist	250,546
Large Block Forest Reserve – Dry	186,949
Endangered Species Areas	83,090
Riparian Reserves (Class I)	497,331
Riparian Reserves (Class II)	107,453
District Designated Reserves	223,142
Total Protected	**1,776,392**
Timber Land Base	**469,215**
East of the Cascade Crest or Congressionally withdrawn Lands	**202,314**
Total BLM Forest Land Base	**2,447,921**

The BLM is saying: pick your special ACEC and we'll take the rest!

And how will the BLM manage the cut?

Answer: maximum productive capacity!"

The Timber Industry's Train wreck Strategy

The BLM's planning effort will NOT pass legal challenges in the courts. So, Oregon Congressman, Cliff Bentz, just introduced legislation to override current law. His press release states "*The bill amends the 1937 Oregon and California Lands Act to clarify that permanent timber production under the principle of sustained yield is the* ***primary purpose of O&C lands****. Revenues generated from responsible timber harvests are intended to directly support county governments and fund schools, roads, public safety, and other essential services, while sustaining rural jobs, improving forest health, and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire.*"

If you recall, the Coast Range Association **for twenty years** reported on timber industry driven changes to the Oregon property tax system – the system that funds counties. The evil scheme was implemented in 1997 by Ballot Measure 50 which, among other things, **froze county property tax rates in the Oregon constitution!** We termed the industries tax scheme "**the train wreck strategy**" to end the Northwest Forest Plan.

And with Oregon's school funding equalization system, every dollar of BLM timber profits going to a local school district, is a **dollar lost in**

state funds. Perhaps that is a reason why state leaders may go along with the Bentz forest destruction bill.

The Power Behind Trump & Forest Destruction

Behind the new forest planning effort is the powerful Northwest timber elite–**the survivors of fifty years of industry competition and consolidation**. Today, a small set of corporate businesses, owned by billion-dollar families, call the shots. These folks are the Trump regime's allies in Oregon.

For the past seventy years, coming out of Roosevelt's New Deal era reforms, federal policy in western land management was a reflection of a liberal order. Science was respected and the executive branch at least acknowledged the rule of law. With the Trump regime we're back in the 19th century's gilded age of corruption, meanness and delusional nationalistic story telling.

So how should we respond to the BLM? Here's my advice.

I Recommend Three Paths

1. The BLM is soliciting Scoping Comments. Scoping is a request for broad issues to consider. Here's my short list:
⇒ The BLM's planning goals are blatantly illegal.
⇒ More logging will increase fire risk.
⇒ Forest destruction will do nothing for the rural economy.
⇒ Your plan will do nothing for schools because they will lose an equal amount of state funding.
⇒ Your agency's plan is about profits for lumber mill owners.

No need to argue science or provide facts and reasoned argument. Let the agency know "***we'll see you in the forest and the courts.***"

2. The second path is to put **endless pressure** on your Congressional Representative and Senators Merkley and Wyden to **STOP THE BENTZ BILL**! I'll provide a separate letter on political strategy after consulting with CRA supporters and conservation colleagues. In the coming months, we must demand to know if our representatives in Congress support a 75% reduction in BLM stream protections? Do they support mature and old growth forest destruction?

3. Organize with your neighbors and friends. Help build a community of resistance to the whole Trump agenda.

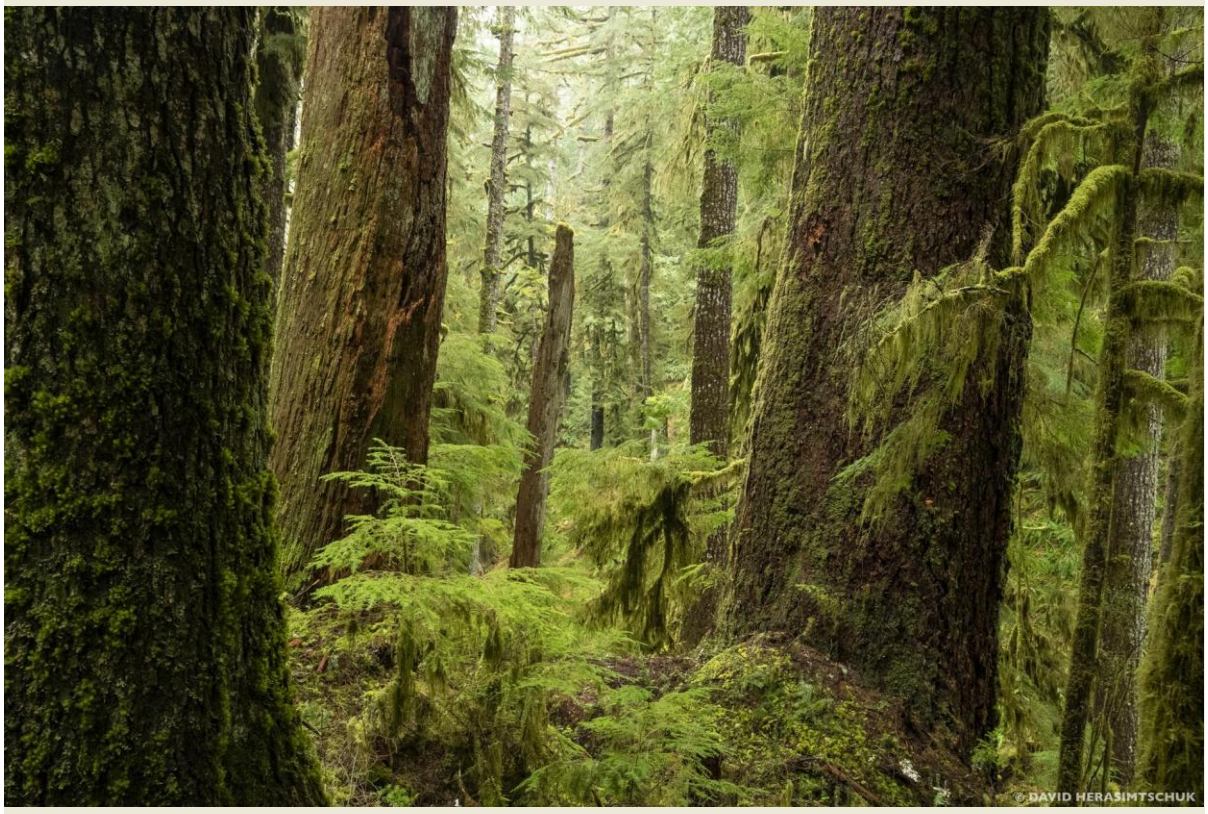
Together - we can resist and ultimately defeat the Trump regime.

In solidarity,

Chuck Willer
Executive Director

PS. Countering the Trump agenda will take resources. If you haven't donated in the past year, consider a small contribution today. OK, I'll Donate Now

Counties with BLM Forestland:
Benton, Clackamas, Columbia, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Jackson, Josephine, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington, and Yamhill Counties.



Coast Range Association