

# BLM PLAN UNDER FIRE

**O**n April 12, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) publicly released its proposed plan to increase timber harvest and environmental protections in Western Oregon forests. The plan claims to strike a balance between timber interests and protecting wildlife, but local environmental groups have called BLM's new plan and "balanced approach" into question.

The proposed BLM "Resource Management Plan" will include a 37-percent increase in timber harvest, according to Cascadia Wildlands, Oregon Wild and Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center.

"This plan is going to ramp up logging in Western Oregon by almost 40 percent, and it's imperative that we begin to look at our public forest lands as more than piggy banks, as they're the lifeblood of our region," says Josh Laughlin, executive director of Cascadia Wildlands. "They provide us our clean drinking water, incredible recreation opportunities, salmon and wildlife habitat."

Enviro groups are concerned that the BLM's plan will threaten a clean source of water. This threat, says Doug Heiken of Oregon Wild, is due to an increase in logging and road building, as the federal forestlands "are up-stream from the water intakes" in cities that serve 1.8 million Oregonians.

Another concern is for wildlife. Heiken explains that endangered wildlife species such as spotted owls, salmon and marbled murrelets will be at risk due to an increase in logging of old-growth reserves and through cutting stream buffers in half.

Sarah Levy, a public affairs officer with the BLM, says that 96 percent of trees 200 years and older and 91 percent of trees 120 years and older will be protected.

In regard to timber management in wildlife habitat, Levy says that the plan is "in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Plan for the northern spotted owl."

A 30-day public review period began on April 8, and the full plan can be viewed at [blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/feis](http://blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/feis). ■



## HAPPENING PEOPLE

BY PAUL NEEVEL

### DERON FORT

With a degree in marketing from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, Deron Fort returned to his hometown of West Chester, Pennsylvania, for a sales job at a titanium manufacturing plant. "It was not inspiring work," he says. "We wore badges to measure radiation from the electron beam furnaces." Fort quit two years later to study for a master's in education at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, then taught middle school for two years.

In 2001, he and his brother spent five months hiking the Appalachian Trail. "End-to-end, 2,160 miles," he says. "It was a life-changing experience." Fort returned to UNCW for a job coordinating student teachers in area schools, and later became its first early-college liaison for high school students. "Early college works," he says. "Many students have a

transformed view of their potential when they experience a college campus."

Fort kept an eye on job openings in certain geographic areas and, in 2011, was hired as director of High School Connections at Lane Community College. HSC opened its Early College and Career Options (ECCO) High School on campus in 2013. "My wife Shelly also likes hiking and camping," he says. "We try to see as much of Oregon as we can." Recruited by officemate Patty Hine, a co-founder of 350 Eugene, Fort took part in last summer's Hike the Pipe protest of the proposed natural gas pipeline and terminal in Southern Oregon. "I hiked about 50 miles, from Shady Grove to Tiller," he says. "We had to alter our route because of wildfire. Those pipes leak methane. It's a recipe for disaster."

**Weekly Meet-ups To Prepare for Break Free**

Wednesdays 5-7 pm  
April 13, 20, 27 and May 4 at The Boreal 450 W 3rd Ave Eugene

**NVDA Trainings**

Sat 4/16 1-6 pm at FUMC 1376 Olive St Eugene

and

Fri 4/22 4-9 pm Education Rm 176 UO Campus

MAY 13-15  
ANACORTES WA

**MASS ACTION AGAINST FOSSIL FUELS**

**BREAKFREEPNW.ORG**

**←350 Eugene**

For More Info: <http://world.350.org/eugene>

820 charnelton st. • eugene, oregon 97401 • 541-349-9642  
[sweatyganeshyoga.com](http://sweatyganeshyoga.com)

**sweaty ganesh yoga**

Love your body. open your mind. change your life

HOT and NON-HEATED classes for people of all ages and body types. Beginners welcome!

Intro offer \$39 for 1 month unlimited yoga!

**Mohawk Valley Metric Century**  
A Pedal for People  
OSLP

**Cycle the Lovely Mohawk Valley!**  
**May 7, 2016**

The 5th annual benefit bike ride for Oregon Supported Living Program's Arts & Culture Program

[mohawkvalley100k.org](http://mohawkvalley100k.org)  
**40K 60K 100K 100K+**  
Armitage Park, Eugene, OR