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PRESS ADVISORY:

**Wyden To Hold Hearings On Future Of Northwest Forest Management**  
*Hearing to Focus on Restoration Thinning As An Alternative to Old-Growth Logging*

**What:** Hearings on thinning and Northwest forest restoration

**When:** December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 2:30 pm EST

**Where:** Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests (Hearing Room SD-366)

Portland, Ore—Tomorrow, United States Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) will chair hearings on restoration thinning in Northwest forests. The Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests will seek information on redirecting agencies that manage federally owned forest lands to focus on meeting ecological and economic demands through conservation-based thinning.

“These hearings are a welcome chance to talk about what is going right with forest policy, and the recklessness of logging old-growth on BLM lands and elsewhere in Oregon,” said Steve Pedery, Conservation Director with Oregon Wild. “With mudslides shutting down roads and isolating communities throughout the Pacific Northwest, it is high time we move away from clear-cutting and old-growth logging on public lands.”

The hearings will focus on successful restoration thinning programs like those in the Siuslaw National Forest in Oregon and the Colville National Forest in Washington, and on restoration thinning projects aimed at restoring dry, Eastern Oregon and Washington forests to a more natural and fire-resistant state. Over the past decade, conservation-based thinning programs have allowed progressive forest managers to meet their timber production goals without lawsuits and conflict.

“The work that we are doing with Siuslaw National Forest has allowed managers to produce wood for rural timber mills and contractors while restoring the forest and improving conditions for fish and wildlife,” observed Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild’s Western Oregon Field Representative. “The forest is providing jobs without sacrificing our old-growth forests, salmon, and clean water. This should be the model for national forests throughout the Northwest.”

The hearing will feature witnesses with backgrounds in science, land conservation, and logging. They include Oregon State University researcher Norm Johnson, one of the original drafters of the Northwest Forest Plan. The hearings will likely explore the possibility of tax incentives for mills that retool for small diameter lumber, the role that low-intensity fire plays in forest health (especially in forests where fire suppression has increased the risk of severe fires) and the need to protect old-growth forests to preserve fish and wildlife habitat, clean drinking water and an essential piece of Northwest heritage.

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