

Sample Letter to the Editor
SAVE APPLGATE FORESTS FOR EVERYONE

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) massive logging program underway in the Applegate Valley is leading to negative environmental and community impacts. They currently have 13,000-plus acres of logging in process or planned in just the Applegate Watershed alone. Logging is currently occurring on Ben Johnson Mountain above Cantrall-Buckley Park in the Apple Saws Timber Sale, and on Woodrat Mountain, the site of world-class paragliding above Ruch, in the Holcomb Hollow Timber Sale.

I urge the BLM to shut down these timber sales immediately and conduct a compliance review. Extensive community monitoring shows that significant compliance issues have arisen, leading to unacceptable environmental impacts that were not analyzed or authorized by the BLM.

BLM claimed these timber sales were only targeting "dead and dying" trees, but in reality, the timber sale purchasers are decimating living, green Douglas-fir trees and are logging living madrone trees that are being cut down by the thousands and hauled away in log trucks, even though they were supposed to remain uncut.

The logging is compromising forest canopy cover, trees per acre, and basal area retention targets in Riparian Reserves, Late Successional Reserve forests, and in northern spotted owl habitats.

Unauthorized new road construction, tractor swing road construction, wet weather logging, ground-based yarding, and Riparian Reserve logging has occurred.

The Applegate has an amenities-based economy sustained by vineyards, farms, and small businesses that thrive because of the beautiful public lands backdrop, but this large-scale BLM logging is threatening the beauty and economic vitality of the valley.

[Your name and contact information]

Writing Letters to the Editor (LTE)

Writing Letters to the Editor is an important and impactful way to advocate for issues you care most about - published pieces provide an additional line of communication with decision-makers and help to raise awareness of the issues and encourage the public to take action. With your help, a consistent flow of media hits can keep the drumbeat up on conservation issues and maintain the public pressure needed to bring real change.

What is an LTE?

A letter to the editor (LTE) is a short article written by a reader that is sent to the editor of a news outlet for them to publish/post.

Writing tips

Do your research!

- Read a few previously published LTE's on the paper's website before drafting your own.

Make a big impression in as few words as possible!

- Personalize it. Publications receive many letters every week, you want yours to stand out.
- Keep your letter to 150-250 words (the newspaper's website should tell you their specific limit).
- Newspapers care about what affects the people who buy their newspapers, and they know a form letter when they see one. **Speak from the heart** about why *you care* about this issue.
- Localize as much as you can by mentioning a local story, special place, loved one who benefits, etc. Editors won't like a cut-and-paste.
- Volume counts - don't get discouraged if your first letter isn't published!

Submission tips

- Include your contact information: Full name, address, phone number, email in the body of an email but not in the LTE itself. The paper will probably follow up with you to confirm the author.
- Following up with the newspaper and asking if they received your letter can increase the chances of it getting printed!
- It's ok to submit your LTE to more than one paper - but consider submitting them in the order of your preference for publication. Sometimes, a paper won't run an LTE if it has already been run in another publication, although it's not as strict for LTE's as it is for OpEds.

Where to submit your letter

Applegater Newsmagazine (Applegate Valley, OR)

Submit to: gater@applegater.org

Guidelines: Letters are limited to 500 words. Click [here](#) for submission deadline dates.

Rogue Valley Times (Medford, OR)

Submit to: letters@rv-times.com or use this [submission form](#)

Guidelines: Letters are limited to 250 words.

Daily Courier (Grants Pass, OR)

Submit to: Use this [submission form](#)

Guidelines: Letters are limited to 250 words. Must be signed and a full street address and phone number must be included for verification.

Ashland.news (Ashland, OR)

Submit to: betling@ashland.news or use this [Submission Form](#)

Guidelines: Letters are limited to 300 words. Include your name, city of residence and contact information for verification.

Oregonian (Portland, OR)

Submit to: letters@oregonian.com

Guidelines: Letters are limited to 250 words.

Portland Tribune (Portland, OR)

Submit to: Use this [Submission form](#)

Guidelines: Letters are limited to 250 words. Must include the writer's phone number and address for verification.