

December 14, 2007

Mr. Edward Shepard, ORWA State Director
Western Oregon Plan Revisions
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

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Dear ORWA State Director Shepard:

I am interested in commenting on BLM's Management Plan for several reasons. I am concerned with the continued viability of our natural resources and feel we have negligently managed the forests for many years. Using the correct management plan, we can protect our forests from natural disasters and enjoy the abundance of recreation they supply. We can continue to support an industry that is vital to our state's economy and provide necessary funding to our communities.

I have been employed in the wood products industry my entire career and have lived in several states. I recently moved my family back to Oregon because we enjoyed living in the state and believe it offers a great environment to raise our children. My livelihood is dependent on timber harvest. With current harvest plans, I am concerned with my ability to continue to live in Oregon and provide for my family.

I continue to watch the decline in timber harvests adversely affect my community. My children, ages four and two, enjoy the weekly story time at our local library. Unfortunately, they were unable to attend this function for many months due to library closures from lack of funding. I also watched the Gold Hill community auction off their police department's equipment this past weekend due to their inability to fund this service for their community. The wood products industry in our state has been on the decline for many years. Unless action is taken to increase timber harvests in Oregon, we'll continue to lose jobs and community services.

Please accept the following comment on BLM's current DEIS for the Revision of the Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon.

- While the Preferred Alternative 2 best represents the management alternative that I would support due to the fact that it provides the highest harvest level and funding to the Counties of the alternatives presented, none of the alternatives in my opinion meet the requirements set forth by the O&C Act because they do not manage the forested O&C lands for the dominant use of timber production as stated in the Act.
- The BLM must develop and analyze at least one alternative that maximizes the amount of land in timber production and receipts to local county governments, and meet its no-jeopardy obligation under the endangered species act.
- The BLM should consider active forest management for the protection of listed species and their habitat before adopting non-management reserve strategies. Disallowing timber harvesting in the majority (52%) of the forest land suitable for timber production is an ill-advised and scientifically unsound method of recovering a listed species and is contrary to the O&C Act. In the Southern Oregon area, timber reserves that do not allow harvesting have little chance of long-term survival due to the high fire hazard that often exists in these forested lands. Areas that are designated to preserve characteristics that the owl and other listed species prefer should have a network of fuel breaks, roads and other forest management structures and techniques that will help to prevent the forest from being destroyed by wild fire.
- Congress and the President must ensure that when the plan is finalized that there is adequate funding to fully implement it. When implemented, the plan must adhere to the following principles to live up to the full commitment made to local counties:

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- Timber sale revenues must generate at least an amount equal to the funding that was provided to local counties through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act on a yearly basis.
- Access should be maintained through BLM administered lands for private land access, fire suppression, as well as recreational uses, such as hunting, fishing, boating and sightseeing.

In summary, the economic viability of our rural communities and the overall health of our federal forests are of vital importance to me. I ask that you give these comments full consideration as you prepare the FEIS and select the final management plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CS', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Seymour