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JAN 11 2008

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Comments on BLM's proposed management plan changes:

I have spent twenty years working in Oregon's forest industry. I have managed crews and performed work including planting, wildland firefighting, thinning, logging and most any other activity which is characteristic of modern forestry.

Having shared this I must say that I am very disappointed to hear of BLM's preference of management plans. On its face, this decision reeks of political corruption, please let me explain.

If in fact there is a shortage of stumpage that is available for harvest, it would certainly be reflected in the price of logs. This clearly is not the case.

If harvests from federal lands are increased significantly then stumpage prices will inevitably fall. This would cause financial hardship for Oregon's small woodland owners who play an important role in supplying this essential raw material.

While timber value is certainly an important resource of BLM lands, the WOPR decision I believe gives short shrift to other critical resources that our forests provide; namely clean plentiful water, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration and recreation to name just a few.

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As I have shared earlier in my comments, I spent over a decade working as a wildland firefighter in Oregon and other northwest states, mostly as a fire crew boss.

It has become very clear to me that the incidence of fire destructive fire in mature old growth stands is much less than it is in areas of even aged young stands and recent clearcuts. I believe recent forestry research confirms my observations.

In conclusion:

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century we will find ourselves increasingly concerned with water resources which are becoming more scarce, global warming and increasingly devastating forest fires and increasing pressure on endangered species.

I oppose the BLM's shortsighted proposal. What we need is more environmental protection and more focus on intensive management and thinning of mature younger forests.

Thank you for your consideration,

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