385

October 20, 2007

RECEIVED

OCT 22 2007

Western Oregon Plan Revisions
PO Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

Dear BLM:

I am writing in response to your request for public comment on the Western Oregon Plan Revision.

My interests in commenting on the plan are many. Having lived and worked here for over 60 years, invested in new businesses, raised a family and having been a State Representative, my appreciation of the resources and the people of this area are truly boundless. I am encouraged that new family wage jobs in the forest products industry could be generated if the BLM ramps up the allowable cut as proposed. I am also hopeful that increased harvest could provide revenues to local county governments in Western Oregon who are hard pressed to provide essential services because of the possible failure of the reauthorization of the Safety Net. Having served in the State Legislature for over 28 years, retiring as Speaker Pro Tem in 1999, I know what it means to stretch tax dollars to cover the needs of all our citizens.

I am also quite impressed with the due diligence that the BLM went through in developing alternatives and assessing the impacts on environmental resources that are unique to our area including clean flowing streams, clean air and various species of wildlife. My hat is off to those who spent many hours putting this plan out for public comment.

At on point in time, I and my family owned a sizeable acreage of private timberlands which were interspersed in the checkerboard pattern with BLM lands. I am aware of the importance of how the neighbor manages his lands and know that reduced fire risk is important and can be achieved by actively managing the timber resource I am also aware of the deteriorating condition of the road system that accesses both private and public lands. Both the fire risk and road system will be better taken care of with active management as the BLM proposes.

My review of the plan finds me agreeing with the BLM's selection of alternative two for the preferred alternative. The ramp up of harvest above today's paltry amount will go a long way toward helping our local economies recover from the devastation that was visited upon us by the listing of the Spotted Owl and the Marbled Murrelet. Fortunately much more is known about those species and their habitat needs and the incorporation of that new information into the foundation of this plan makes it all the more supportable.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Bill Markham

Bill Markham