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Ref: Pilot Joe Demonstration Project E.A. 1792 (ORM060)

Dear Stephanie Kelleher,

This demonstration project as laid out is the best overall thinning project BLM has presented in the Middle Applegate area since I began paying attention. Kudos for being willing to do something innovative, progressive and much more acceptable to those of us who live in this valley. One of the main reasons I like this project over past proposals (Spencer Lomas, Ferris Bugman and China Keeler) is the fact there is **no new road construction!** There is even 0.4 miles of road decommissioning. Another reason I like this is the retention of old trees of all types. If this project is done right this may in fact reduce the severity of fire and be good for the forest overall.

The challenge will be to implement this on the ground and do a good job. I like the proposal to save the biggest and healthiest trees of all species such as Franklin and Johnson are proposing. I have concerns as to whether their prescription can be implemented as planned due to the reality of logging. To retain a large spreading madrone tree without beating it up will be very difficult given the amount of volume to be removed, the terrain and logistics. Bottom line, logging is messy. This stage of implementation is crucial to the success of this project.

The proper monitoring at intervals for years (up to a decade) would be prudent. I would hope that the information gleaned from those surveys would be readily available to the public. I would suggest BLM make the effort to do periodic follow up outreach emails to those who have shown an interest in this project.

I want to thank BLM for trying this new innovative approach. This proposal is much better than anything that has been offered in the past in the Applegate Valley. I am very pleased there are no new roads in this project! Pilot Joe is the current poster child project. If it is successful then part of the credit goes towards abandoning the building of new roads. Please keep that in mind for the proposals that are sure to follow.

I really appreciate the efforts to involve the public in this project. I intend to follow this project closely. We will wait and see just how successful this project will turn out. Time will tell. Please continue to keep me on your contact list for Pilot Joe. Thank you.

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