



07/27/2011 11:40 AM

To <skelleher@blm.gov>, <stephanie_kelleher@blm.gov>

cc <jgerrits@blm.gov>

bcc

Subject Pilot Joe project

History:

 This message has been replied to.

July 27, 2011

Pilot Joe Demonstration Project
Stephanie Kelleher
Ashland Resource Area
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, OR 97504

Dear BLM,

I am writing to present new information relevant to the Environmental Assessment for the Pilot Joe Demonstration Project (DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2011-0016-EA). The attached document, entitled "Reconstruction of the Historical Composition and Structure of Forests in the Middle Applegate Area, Oregon, using the General Land Office Surveys, and Implications for the Pilot Joe Project" is a scientific analysis, soon to be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal, of historical conditions in and near the proposed project area.

I am a professor in the Program in Ecology and Department of Geography at the University of Wyoming. I am also a member of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Dry Forest Landscape Working Group for the Northern spotted owl, and I am engaged in scientific research on forest structure, fire, and the habitat of the spotted owl in the eastern Cascades of Oregon. I am the author of > 100 peer-reviewed scientific publications and several books on the ecology of western forests, shrublands, and grasslands, including a 2009 book, Fire Ecology in Rocky Mountain Landscapes.

The thrust of the attached document is that the EA is deficient by making presumptions about historical conditions that are not backed by science. I have assembled the most comprehensive site-specific analysis of historical conditions for the proposed project area. The implications are that the impacts of the project are much greater, and much different than the public has been told in the current EA. I suggest that the EA needs to take a hard look at this science and provide a discussion and support for the use of this specific science. It is important to note that my findings are generally consistent with the studies of previous scientists in the area, so the findings, while much more detailed and specific, are consistent with a substantial body of previous scientific research.

Please enter this document into the record for this EA.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]



BakerMiddleApplegateStudy2011.pdf