



"Perpetua Forest"

07/27/2011 08:10 AM

To <Stephanie_Kelleher@blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Pilot Joe EA

Dear Stephanie,

Please accept the following as Rough & Ready's comment's on the proposed Pilot Joe project and associated EA. We at Rough & Ready would like to encourage the BLM to proceed with the proposed Alternative 2 as described in the EA.

In addition to the 2 alternatives, #1 No-Action, and #2 the proposed action we would have liked to see more options for a more aggressive approach to treating forest stands and providing much needed jobs and wood products to the local economies. We are at a critical juncture in the Timber Industry, where if raw materials for the existing plant infrastructure are not met in the recent future, there may not be an industry present to meet the management needs of public and private landowners. Here are some recent quotes from AFRC comments from the Appropriations Committee:

The Committee indicated that "it is concerned that recent mill closures in forested rural areas have diminished the Service's ability to actively manage national forests to prevent catastrophic wildfires, and large-scale insect and disease infestation. Forest products infrastructure is essential to improving the health and resilience of national forests while also contributing to the health of rural communities. The Committee directs the Forest Service to consider local infrastructure needs and capacity while planning forest management projects."

For the BLM, the Committee recommended \$112,043,000 for the O&C Lands as requested, \$709,000 above the FY11 enacted level. The Committee report language notes that it was supportive of the Secretary's Western Oregon strategy pilot projects, but "is concerned that these projects may not result in realistic long-term solutions to the management of O&C Lands."

The report also indicated that "a comprehensive review and change of current policies, including Survey and Manage, is necessary to meet the goals of the O&C Lands Act of 1937."

The Committee notes that the law directs that these lands be managed "'for permanent forest production . . . with the principal of sustained yield for the purpose of providing a permanent source of timber supply, protecting watersheds, regulating stream flow, and contributing to the economic stability of local communities and industries, and providing recreational facilities'".

While this project is a start to getting some wood fiber into the market, we are skeptical that this project will help rectify many of the problems that face the BLM in long term management of O&C lands. We believe that some of the traditional controversial issues facing management of these lands could have been addressed in the planning of this project. Some of these issues include road building, arbitrary diameter cutting limits, and others. However, it is our opinion that many of these controversial issues were tabled during this process leaving just another BLM timber sale with slightly different treatment prescriptions.

In conclusion we would like to encourage the BLM to move forward with this proposed project, as well as aggressively look at other projects that consist of a balance of products that the existing industry utilizes to encourage a strong Timber Industry presence in Southern Oregon that will be available for land

management in the long term.

Sincerely,
Dave Streeter
Timber Manager