GOVERNMENT

OFFICES

2371

NE STEPHENS

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ROSEBURG

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July 15, 2011

Bureau of Land Management
Roseburg District Office
Attn: Paul Ausbeck
777 NW Garden Valley Blvd.
Roseburg, OR 97471

RE: Roseburg District Secretarial Demonstration Pilot Project
DOI-BLM-OR-R050-2011-0006-EA

Dear Mr. Ausbeck:

The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians (Tribe) is supportive of the Secretarial Demonstration Pilot Project and the potential it offers for directing future BLM management. The Tribe offers the following scoping comments on the proposed project.

The Tribe's ancestral homelands cover Upper Myrtle Creek, including all the potential units in the Demonstration Project. This area was a culturally important food-gathering place for the Cow Creek Tribe. We ask that you give due consideration to the archaeological resources – both known and still to-be-discovered – in this area. We would like to meet with you to discuss these resources after the treatment units are further refined.

We understand the need for long-lasting early seral habitat and the importance of that habitat for a multitude of organisms. Conifer regeneration in these early seral openings is important for future timber supply. We support and encourage the use of silvicultural practices, including the use of properly-applied herbicides, to provide for vigorous conifer stands. In addition, herbicides and other intensive practices should be used whenever necessary to prevent the spread of noxious weeds into the treatment areas.

We believe that the creation of large canopy openings has many benefits, including for timber supply, economy of timber harvest, and habitat for northern spotted owl prey. We ask that you consider these factors when determining aggregate versus dispersed retention.

We support timber harvest within the Riparian Reserve land use allocation when conducted to meet the objectives of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. We encourage the assessment of current and desired future conditions in the Riparian Reserves within the Demonstration Project, and urge the application of harvest treatments as necessary to put those reserves on a trajectory toward those desired future conditions.

One of the most important outcomes of the Roseburg Demonstration Pilot Project is the potential to inform future management direction and practices. The Tribe encourages the implementation of this project and learning from the results – whether negative or positive – for the benefit of future restoration efforts in the Umpqua Basin.

To inform the evaluation of Demonstration Project outcomes and support any management adaptations that may be needed, the Tribe encourages robust pre- and post-treatment monitoring. To that end, we support the concept of multi-stakeholder monitoring.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. Feel free to call me at 541-677-5581 for further discussion.

Sincerely,

Jay Walters, CF
Tribal Forester