Cerro Gordo Silviculture, LLC
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July 6, 2015

Mark Brown, Project Manager
RMPs for Western Oregon
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

Re: Resource Management Plans (RMP) for Western Oregon

Dear Mr. Brown:

We just recently found out about the newly released Draft RMP for Western Oregon and have watched some of your informational videos about it. We are particularly interested that you have partnered with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to incorporate aspects of their road map for the recovery of the Northern Spotted Owl.

Another one of your sister Federal Agencies, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is also working on the recovery of the Northern Spotted Owl here in Oregon through their Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP). The focus of the HFRP in Oregon is to balance sustainable, profitable timber harvests in a way that promotes habitat improvement for the Northern Spotted Owl. I personally live on Section 28 in Township 20 South, Range 2 West of the Willamette Meridian about 6 miles east of Cottage Grove, Oregon.

I also am a member and manager of Cerro Gordo Silviculture, LLC (CG Silviculture). CG Silviculture owns 457 acres of land in T. 20 S., R. 2 W., Sections 21 & 28. In 2012 we recorded an HFRP conservation easement on our land and since then have been conducting restoration work to enhance habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl. Our goal is to manage our forest in ways that will move it towards an "old forest" condition with 100-year-old trees or older.

In addition to this HFRP easement, we are planning on a second conservation easement on an additional 536 acres of land, shown on the attached map in orange as the WWMP Project Area. This conservation easement will be funded through the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP), which is managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and will be held by McKenzie River Trust.

CG Silviculture land is bordered on three sides (west, north, and east) by BLM lands (see attached map with the HFRP easement indicated in green). The WWMP Project Area is also bordered by BLM land in Section 29 on the north slope of Cerro Gordo Mountain. Given BLM and CG Silviculture's common interest in the recovery of the Northern Spotted Owl and that we have adjacent lands presents an excellent opportunity to expand

the landscape for Northern Spotted Owl habitat beyond the 457 acres protected by the HFRP easement and the additional 536 acres of proposed conservation land.

We recently learned that BLM is planning on a very heavy timber harvest on a portion of T. 20 S., R. 2 W., Section 29 shown on the attached map as the area in yellow with trees in the 50 year age class on the southern most portion of BLM's land in Section 29 on the north slope of Cerro Gordo Mountain. We were told that following the draft RMP this land will be cut leaving only 5-15% of the stand density index. This heavy a timber harvest is not compatible with restoring Northern Spotted Owl habitat and doesn't enhance the Northern Spotted Owl habitat CG Silviculture is maintaining on its landscape. The land just to the south of this proposed harvest has 70-year old trees that we intend to let grow into an "old forest" condition to further enhance Northern Spotted Owl habitat. It would be far better for this owl habitat if you would leave at least 40% canopy cover and let the remaining trees grow to at least 100 years old.

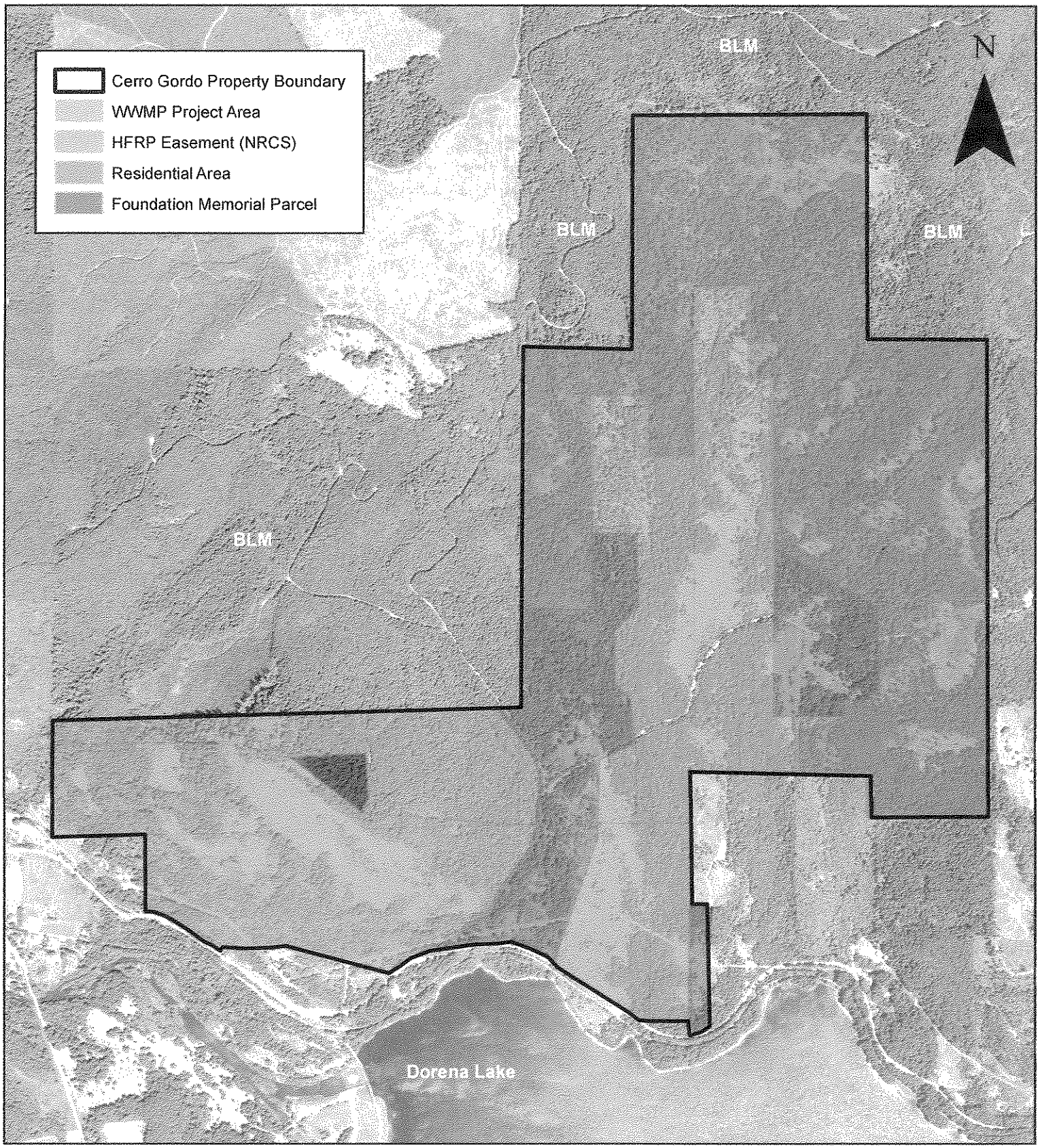
We hope that in the RMP that you finally adopt you take into consideration adjacent private lands that are being managed as conservation land. By managing these BLM lands in compatible ways you can leverage habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl.

Yours very truly,

James W. Stevenson, Member and Manager of Cerro Gordo Silviculture, LLC

cc: Kathryn Stangl, BLM Eugene District Manager
Christie Hardenbrook
Janet Spindler
Jessica LeRoy

Cerro Gordo Conservation Easement



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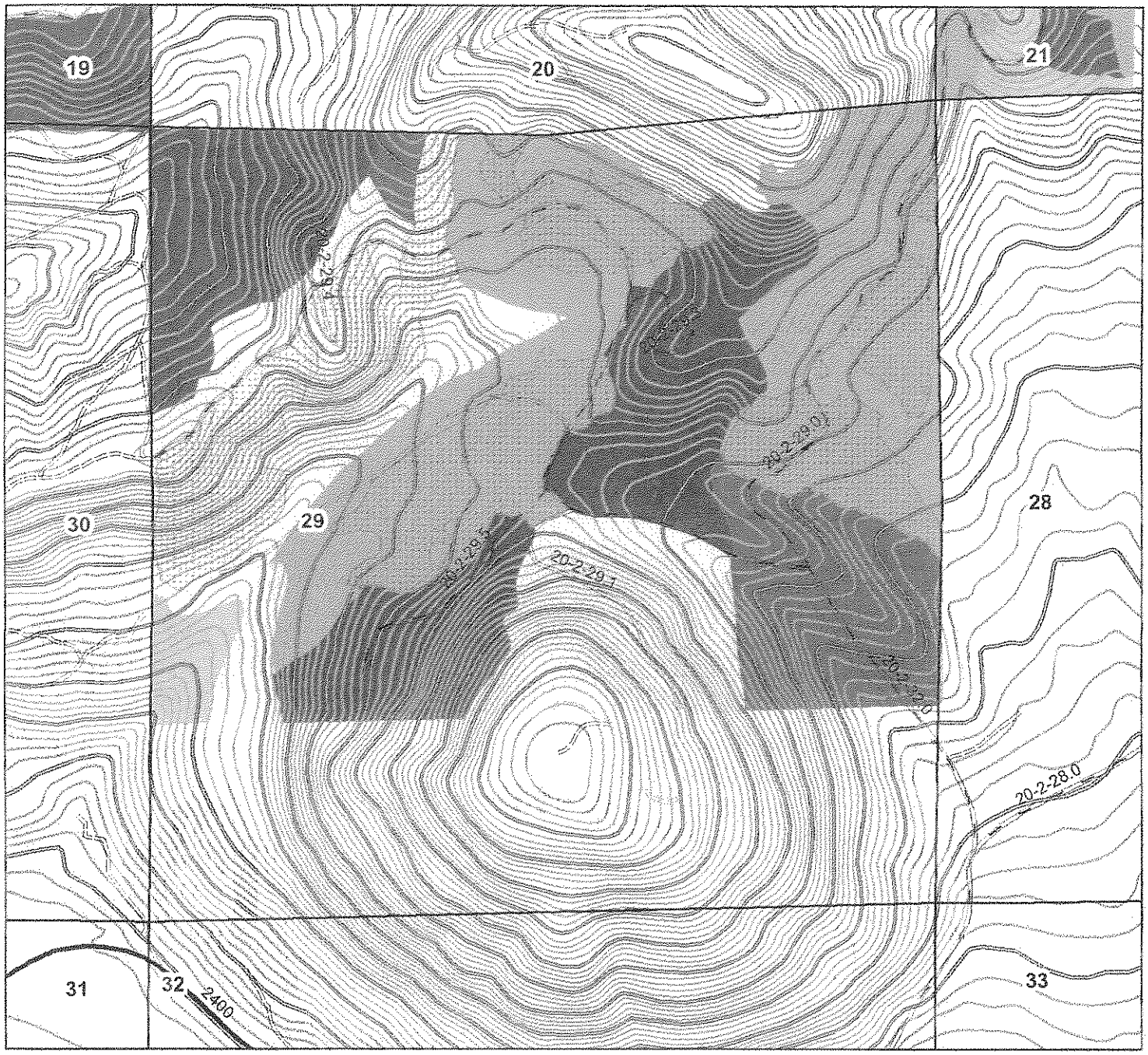
TROUT MOUNTAIN FORESTRY



Cerro Gordo

T. 20 S., R. 2 W., Section 29

Potential Access Route

Bear Ridge Timber Sale

>80

80

70

60

50

40

<40

N

W

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