

From: [Benton Elliott](#)
To: [BLM_OR_RMPs_WesternOregon](#)
Subject: Public Comment: RMPS for Western Oregon
Date: Thursday, June 21, 2012 5:44:40 PM

Please accept my comments, as expressed below, with regard to the RMPS for Western Oregon. Thank you.

1. Continue to adhere to the Northwest Forest Plan guidelines to ensure the health of our watersheds and to provide clean water for our communities.
2. Increase environmental protections for old-growth and mature second-growth forest habitat.
3. Assure adequate federal environmental protections for endangered species.
4. Preserve and increase the amount of BLM land dedicated to providing wildlife corridors for endangered and at-risk species.
5. Ban regeneration harvests (clear-cuts) and steep slope logging.
6. Ban the use of pesticide and herbicide spraying in our watersheds.
7. Maintain federal control and regulation of the O&C lands currently managed by the BLM. Do NOT relinquish management of BLM lands to non-federal agencies or private concerns as suggested in Congressman Defazio's O&C Trust, Conservation & Jobs Act (O&CTCJ Act).
8. Work on legislation to overturn the 1937 O&C Act which mandates our forests are to be managed as timber plantations. It is the current legal interpretation of the O&C Act that TIMBER YIELD AND REVENUE is the primary purpose of these lands. Other, less harmful interpretations are just as viable.
9. The BLM should actively seek and promote other sources of revenue for our counties to replace timber sales such as:
BLM should support legislation for an increased severance tax ("harvest tax") for large industrial timber owners, and increased property taxes for large timber owners, who currently pay minimal property tax and receive large rebates in the form of credits, refunds and incentives.
Seek increased revenue from recreational use not by simply raising fees, but by actively promoting BLM forests as educational resources and for eco-tourism, leading hikes, camping, etc. Allow the public access to areas soon-to-be-harvested or which have been recently harvested for foraging and firewood gathering;
Actively managing to create habitat for non-forest timber products such as mushrooms, edible plants, medicinal plants, decorative greens;
Enroll in a carbon credit system to compensate Oregon for the carbon sequestration provided by our public forests.
10. The BLM should tighten local milling requirements for timber harvested from its public lands to increase domestic jobs, which are lost when logs are minimally milled and exported.
11. Offer thinning sales in small units which would be accessible to/and affordable by local small timber operations without access to expensive equipment

12. Study and employ other methods of timber harvesting that focus on the sustained health of the forest instead of the sustained amount of board feet harvested.

Sincerely,

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