

From: [Mora Dewey](#)
To: [BLM_OR_RMPs_WesternOregon](#)
Subject: submission of RMP comments
Date: Thursday, July 05, 2012 9:05:32 AM
Attachments: [7-5-12 RMP comments.doc](#)

I am submitting comments in the body of this email, with the same comments also included as an attachment.

Dear BLM:

Below are my comments on scoping for the new Resource Management Plan under development:

- √ Continue to adhere to the Northwest Forest Plan guidelines to ensure the health of our watersheds and to provide clean water for our communities.

- √ Increase environmental protections for old-growth and mature second-growth forest habitat.

- √ Assure adequate federal environmental protections for endangered species.

- √ Preserve and increase the amount of BLM land dedicated to providing wildlife corridors for endangered and at-risk species.

- √ Ban regeneration harvests (clear-cuts) and steep slope logging.

- √ Ban the use of pesticide and herbicide spraying in our watersheds.

- √ 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 concerns as suggested in the DeFazio plan.

√ Work on legislation to overturn the 1937 O&C Act which mandates our forests are to be managed as timber plantations. Other, less harmful interpretations are just as viable.

√ 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 (AKA "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 ecotourism, leading hikes, treks, etc.;
- allow the public access to areas soon-to-be-harvested or recently-harvested for foraging and firewood gathering;
- actively managing to create habitat for non-timber forest products such as mushrooms, edible plants, medicinal plants, decorative greens;
- enrolling in a carbon credit system to compensate Oregon for the carbon sequestration provided by our public forests.

√ 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)

√ **Offer thinning sales in small units which would be accessible to and affordable by local small timber operations without access to expensive equipment — this is an important way to engage local workers and add new jobs for the previously unemployed.**

√ 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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