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Much has changed since the BLM began writing ten year plans for Western Oregon a few decades ago. Second growth forests have become the sustainable base of our timber economy. The remaining old growth is most valuable left standing with restoration opportunities identified in the RMP.

Northern Josephine Counties' (Sunny Valley, Wolf Creek and Galice) economic health depends in large measure upon enlightened BLM policy. Further developing public/private partnerships focused upon second growth forests builds a sustainable future. And recreational infrastructure has grown dramatically. For example, Oregon State Parks acquisition of the Wolf Creek Inn and Ghost town of Golden, Golden Coyote Wetlands, the Sunny Valley Applegate Trail Museum, BLM's London Peak Trail, King Mt. Rock Garden, Burma Pond. Expansion of our recreational economy depends upon additional protections for the Wild and Scenic Rogue River and restoration of the old growth islands as documented in the Grave Creek Watershed Analysis 1999. The RMP plan should include watershed analysis updates.

There are important economic and biological connections to understand about the Grave Creek watershed, it's location on the Rogue-Umpqua Divide. East west biological connections between the Coast and Cascade Mountains have become compelling drivers for NEPA planning. In Josephine County the economic connections between the Rogue River and the I-5 corridor are also compelling.

Also, the RMP should build upon the example of the Pilot Joe Demonstration Project in the Middle Applegate Watershed, Medford District.

This RMP should review NEPA implementation historically and improve opportunities for public participation. Specifically, the expanding use of CEs (CXs) Categorical Exclusions policy has allowed major degrading impacts on BLM lands with little or no public scrutiny, e.g. district wide road maintenance operations.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Boyd Peters