211✓ Mike ~~Mike~~ 9/5/07

SISKIYOU PROJECT

Siskiyou Regional Education Project—Preserving the Siskiyou for Future Generations of All Species
9335 Takilma Road • Cave Junction, Oregon 97523 • (541) 592-4459 • www.siskiyou.org

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State Director's Office

Edward W. Shepard, Oregon State Director
USDI Bureau of Land Managment
POB 2965
Portland, Oregon 97208

August 22, 2007

Re: Requests for (a) earlier WOPR technical workshops and (b) WOPR Comment Period Extension

Dear Mr. Shepard,

First we want to thank Grants Pass Resource Area Manager, Abbie Jossie, for providing a presentation about the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR) in Cave Junction on July 17th.

1. We are especially interested in the technical science and modeling workshops Ms. Jossie mentioned, now scheduled for very late in the comment period (end of October).

These technical science workshops need to come earlier in the comment period to give us time to research technical issues and planning assumptions. Preparation of substantive comments requires expert guidance on complex and often contradictory findings. Please advise us of the status of these workshops and the possibility for earlier access to BLM scientists and computer modeling staff.

2. The WOPR has a 90-day comment period, which is too short.

We need more than 90 days to gather information, arrange meetings with BLM experts, and research complicated forest policy issues. Ninety days is an unreasonably short time for citizens to assess the huge amount of data in the WOPR (1,800 pages). We fear that the WOPR has the potential to have irreversible negative consequences for millions of acres of public forest land. We respectfully request that the comment period be extended to 180 days or more.

Please inform us in writing of your decision on items 1 and 2 above.

Sincerely, Julie Norman
Julie Norman, Executive Director

CC: Tim Reuwsaat (Medford Distrct Manager), 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504
Abbie Jossie , 2164 NE Spalding Ave., Grants Pass, OR 97526

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