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Edward Shepard, OR/WA State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
Western Oregon Plan Revisions  
P O Box 2965  
Portland, OR. 97208

Dear Ed,

I have watched our forests and the communities that depended on them rapidly deteriorate for the last 17 plus years due to lack of sound forest management. We knew then as we know even better now that active management for habitat maintenance and fire protection is far better for our forests than locking it up and watching it burn or rot down. It is refreshing to hear that the BLM is moving to once again wisely manage one of our countries most important resources.

Although the BLM draft Western OR Plan Revision (WOPR) preferred Alternative 2 would be important progress towards improvement to rural economies, timber infrastructure, forest health, and help prevent destructive loss, I strongly urge you to consider developing a "Modified Alternative 2 Plus" which would manage greater forest acreage and higher intensity. This would be the best management approach to meet the immediate funding needs of local counties, while working to protect our environment. I urge you to apply due diligence to finalize the WOPR, and ensure that adequate funding is sought to implement the plan. The WOPR should adhere to the following key principles.

1. Develop a new "Modified Alternative 2 Plus" – integrating greater management intensity and acreage.
2. Harvest 960 million bdf t annually; or 80% of the annual growth capability.
3. Expand the harvest land base to 60% of BLM forestland, to provide stability.
4. Increase the fire resiliency of the forest by using active mechanical harvesting.
5. Speed the redevelopment of structurally complex forests after regeneration harvesting by retaining 2-6 reserve trees/acre, down wood, & riparian trees.
6. Accelerate recovery of damaged/killed forests (reduce waste of valuable timber and increase county revenues) by more aggressive use of salvaging, site prep, vegetation control and reforestation.

7. Help recover the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet, by: a) harvest to provide a range of different structures that maintain a dynamic forest landscape over space & time; and b) adopt improved species take avoidance strategies that utilize harvest methods for desired diversity.
8. Timber harvest to generate over 100% of annual county subsidy paid from Secure Rural Schools Act.
9. Minimize threat of destructive loss on BLM lands, and threats to neighbors.
10. Improve road access & easements through BLM lands for non-federal property access and rights-of-ways, as well as for BLM management and recreation.
11. Favor active management for habitat maintenance, rather than passive "reserve" strategies.
12. Avoid unnecessary restrictions that become barriers to road construction and active harvesting.
13. Encourage local management flexibility and professional discretion tailored to local on site conditions.

Of the three alternatives being considered by the BLM, it is my hope that you will adopt a new "Modified Alternative 2 Plus" that would harvest 960 million bdf t annually. This plan would meet the much needed funding of local counties, provide needed timber supply and vastly improve the forest health, while with the tools we have today, also protecting our environment.

Thank you for your forward thinking and understanding of the importance of the economic value in Oregon's forest sector, its vital contributions toward rural communities, Oregon's economy, and the health of the BLM forestlands.

Sincerely,



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