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OCT 3 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

Alternative 2 most closely supports the objectives of the O & C Act so I support it. Having said that, several things need to be addressed. They are as follows:

- Reducing forest fire will be accomplished only through the reduction in fuel loading. That means we must do everything possible to imitate the actions of nature before humans began "interfering" with the natural processes of our lands. Most importantly, we cannot allow unbridled growth with out some reduction in fuel load. The combination of controlled burns during the "off season" (spring, and more importantly fall) combined with minimizing ladder fuels and potential crown fires through thinning activity and serious fuels reduction is our best approach to fire resistance in all forests, not just in the Medford District and the Klamath Falls area of the Lakeview District. Fire from lightning has always been a natural part of our environment well before even the occupation of our lands by native Americans, and we need to return fire to our forests in order to get them back to some semblance of their original profile.
- The spotted owl controversy needs to find final resolution. Numerous articles in recent months pretty well spell out the ineffectiveness of restricting timber management to "save" the spotted owl. The barred owl apparently is competing effectively with the spotted owl and apparently will eventually take the majority of the habitat of the spotted owl. That is a natural part of succession. It is time to minimize the emotion of spotted owls, marbled murrelets, and all the other "single issue" emotional matters the environmental politics has managed to conjur up, and manage our forests primarily for people, with consideration, as appropriate, for the maintenance of all wildlife species.
- Structurally complex forests can be planted and/or managed just like industrial forests are planted and managed. The BLM hires foresters who have been educated to evaluate conditions and make appropriate decisions. From my perspective it is time to support the skills and abilities of your professionals, give them the mission and objectives they are to achieve, and let them do their jobs without all of the interference of lay citizens and our court systems, neither of which truly have the background or education to fully understand the complexities of the ecology of our forests.

Sincerely,



Jon R. Toreson