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October 2, 2007

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Ed Shepard
State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon Plan Revisions
P.O. Box 29208
Portland, OR 97208

Dear Mr. Shepard,

Considering all of the four management alternatives presented in the Western Oregon Plan Revision the Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc. Board of Directors supports the economic advantages for sustained yield forest production, combined with the full compliance with all relevant species, wilderness and watershed protections as provided for in the preferred Alternative #2. The current and long-term stability of the region's economy from additional jobs created and the nearly full restoration of federal payments to Jackson and Josephine Counties provides for the future opportunities for economic growth and stability as envisioned for the region's economy and as contained in our SOREDI mission.

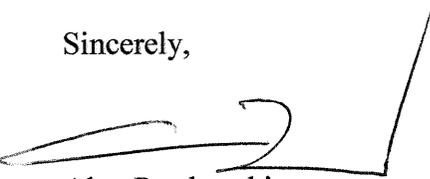
Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc is the regional economic development organization serving Jackson and Josephine Counties for over twenty years. The SOREDI mission is to "collectively build employment opportunities, diversify the economy and promote the creation of jobs with wages and benefits higher than the regional average and compatible with community values." In fulfilling our mission and goals to enhance the regional economy of Southern Oregon we see an important role for effective public land management policies, especially on those lands included in the Oregon-California Lands designation. The O&C lands are unique Federal management lands in that those lands have been set aside by federal statute for management under sustained forest production yield objectives. While the economy in Jackson and Josephine Counties has seen dramatic diversification over the recent decades, primary and secondary wood products remains a large sector of the region's overall economic base.

- Underwriters
- Adroit Construction Co, Inc.
- Asante Health Systems
- Avista Corp.
- Bank of the Cascades
- Batzer Inc.
- Boise Cascade, LLC
- Burrill Real Estate, LLC
- City of Ashland
- City of Central Point
- City of Grants Pass
- City of Medford
- EMBARQ
- Evergreen Federal Bank
- First American Title Company
 - Josephine / Jackson Division
- Harry & David Operation Corp.
- Hunter Communications
- Jackson County
- Josephine County
- Kogap Enterprises, Inc.
- Lanphier Associates, Inc.
- Liberty Bank
- Lithia Motors, Inc.
- LTM, Inc.
- Matthew Sutton, Attorney at Law
- Medford Fabrication
- Medford Mail Tribune
- Medford Urban Renewal Agency
- Michael L. Piels, CPA's, LLP
- Moss Adams, LLP
- PacificCorp
- People's Bank of Commerce
- PremierWest Bank
- Providence Medford Medical Center
- Regence BlueCross BlueShield
 - of Oregon
- Rogue Community College
- Rogue Federal Credit Union
- Rogue Valley Sewer Service
- Rogue Waste Systems, LLC
- Southern Oregon Sanitation
- Southern Oregon University
- South Valley Bank & Trust
- Sterling Savings Bank
- The Job Council
- The Wright Group at Smith Barney
- Umpqua Bank
- US Bank
- Wells Fargo Bank

The Western Oregon Plan Revisions developed by Bureau of Land Management are required to comply fully with O&C Act of 1937, comply with all relevant species protection requirements as well as address several critical issues such as timber harvest production, watershed management, wildfire and fuels management and address off highway vehicle usage on the O&C lands. Among the alternative management proposals presented in the WOPR, only Alternative #2 meets all of the management outcomes as set forth by the O&C Act of 1937 as well as all relevant natural resources protection requirements. The sustained yield forest production obligation set forth for the O&C lands would be met only by the overall management policies as contained in the "preferred Alternative #2."

With the requirement for sustained yield, Jackson and Josephine Counties could expect to see additional employment opportunities as a portion of the estimated 3,400 additional jobs to be created under Alternative #2 statewide. Additionally, with effective harvest methods applied on the forty-eight per cent of the overall O&C lands designative for active harvest management, the forest product yield could generate over 90% of the previous federal revenues received by the two counties under the Safe School and Communities Act. Those additional revenues would permit the counties to again realize a sustained revenue resource to provide for essential public services.

Sincerely,



Alex Pawlowski
President