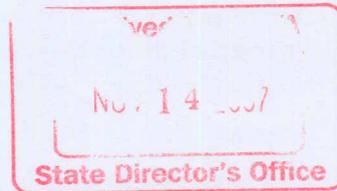




Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

...advancing the general welfare and prosperity of Oregon's Bay Area

November 8, 2007



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Edward W. Shepard
State Director—BLM
Western Oregon Plan Revisions
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

RE: DEIS Western Oregon Resource Management Plan Revisions

Director Shepard,

The DEIS for the Revision of the Resource Management Plans of the Western Oregon Bureau of Land Management Districts is an impressive piece of work to address an important need. Your staff throughout Oregon and Washington have not only put together a factual and readable document, but have ensured that the public, through tours, workshops and speaking engagements, has the opportunity to become informed and provide comments to direct the process results. We appreciate that effort.

The O&C Act, which governs most of the BLM administered lands in Western Oregon, requires that the O&C lands be managed "for permanent forest production, and the timber thereon shall be sold, cut and removed in conformity with the principle of sustained yield for the purpose of providing a permanent source of timber supply, protecting watersheds, regulating stream flow and contributing to the economic stability of local communities and industries, and providing recreational facilities". We agree with the BLM that these requirements of the O&C Act are not being met by the current Northwest Forest Plan. In fact the harvest levels directed by the existing management plans are not even being met. We support the BLM's effort to revise their Resource Management Plans (RMPs) to actively address these shortcomings.

The DEIS for the Revision of the RMPs of the Western Oregon BLM Districts provides for four management options ranging from No Action (a continuation of the present policies) to three specific alternatives. The **Bay Area Chamber of Commerce**, with over 650 members representing every aspect of the economic life of this community, **strongly supports Alternative 2**. Alternative 2 would have the most favorable impact on the local economy and would result in a net increase of 3,442 jobs and \$136.5 million of earnings (wages) in Western Oregon. It does this while protecting our environment and a multitude of other forest uses. It does this while utilizing only 48% of the land base for timber management.

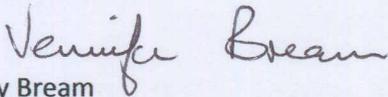
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Alternative 2, as it promotes greater economic stability in Coos County, also provides for:

- Wildlife—The habitat needs of aquatic and riparian associated species would be met for perennial and fish bearing streams. Over the long term, marbled murrelet habitat would increase by 18%. Alternative 2 would maintain the current amount of suitable Northern Spotted Owl habitat over time.
- Fish—The abundance and survival of salmonids is closely linked to the abundance of large woody debris in streams. Under this alternative, large wood contributions would increase and nearly reach the maximum potential. Resource management would not result in increases in stream temperature that would affect fish habitat or populations. Fine sediment delivery from the road system, both new and existing, would be less than 1% of the baseline sediment rates and would not degrade habitat.
- Water—Best management practices would be applied and are assumed, by definition and actual experience, to maintain or improve water quality. Alternative 2 would maintain effective stream shade that would limit the increase of stream temperature within the range of natural variability.
- Recreation—The alternative will meet recreational demand and improve the quality of visitor experiences.
- Soils—overall soil productivity would be maintained or improved.

We urge your adoption of Alternative 2, as the basis for the BLM's new Resource Management Plan for Western Oregon, and look forward to its full implementation as quickly as possible. This would fulfill the commitment made to Coos County through the O&C Lands Act in 1937 and provide real dollars for real needs.

Sincerely,



Jenny Bream

President—Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

cc Senator Gordon Smith
Senator Ron Wyden
Representative Peter DeFazio
Governor Ted Kulongoski
State Senator Joanne Verger
State Representative Arnie Roblan
Coos County Board of Commissioners
City of Coos Bay
City of North Bend