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Letters to the Editor

Doing nothing not acceptable

Editor:

Currently in the BLM's Draft Environmental Statement there are three plans for managing Oregon lands: Do Nothing, Balanced Economic, or Maximum Economic.

For at least the past 20 years the approach and effect has been to do nothing. This is really unacceptable when one considers the problems cited below.

The BLM recommended approach is the Balanced Economic. As in most things, a middle course is usually the best. For "Soup and Salt" not too much, not too little makes the soup taste just fine.

Government-supported forest science has been underfunded, and very poorly managed. This science cannot be generalized for large surface areas; it must be specific for the local conditions. A balanced economic approach could provide the impetus and funds for this to occur.

Sequestering of carbon to modify global warming cannot occur without atmospheric carbon dioxide, sunlight and green forest vegetation surface area interactions. It is conjectured that overgrown forest canopy sur-

Some desire tourism to be a main Oregon industry; for this to occur these lands need to be developed such that right of access, roads and attractions can occur. Timbering can provide all of this.

For fire suppression these lands need to be actively managed for fuel load. Timber needs to be harvested for this to occur, and to provide the funds for this to occur. Fire is nature's management tool. Man needs to integrate his efforts with this natural phenomena. After fire, erosion control needs to be implemented to prevent destruction of the habitat.

faces severely limit the amount of carbon sequestered. Proper canopy control and removal of timber to structures provides a significant amount of carbon being sequestered.

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