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City of North Bend

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November 13, 2007

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

RE: DEIS Western Oregon Resource Management Plan Revisions

Dear Mr. Shepard:

The North Bend City Council met in regular session on November 13, 2007 to formally discuss the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Revision of the Resource Management Plans of the Western Oregon Bureau of Land Management Districts. We are writing at this time to express our support of Alternative 2 which is described in the DEIS. City of North Bend representatives have taken the opportunity to review the DEIS summary, attend local forums and tour BLM lands. It is our understanding that The DEIS provides for four management options ranging from "no action" to three specific alternatives. It is clear that Alternative 2 would have the most favorable impact on the local economy and would result in revenues equal to approximately 94% of the lost O & C revenues to counties. Alternative 2 provides for protection of fish, wildlife and the environment while allowing for restoration of our timber economy. Cutting timber reduces the need for federal subsidies and Alternative 2, simply put, makes sense.

For decades, timber has been the backbone of our economy and growing trees is one of the things Oregon does best. This is one of the most important issues facing our communities today and we urge the adoption of Alternative 2. We appreciate all that has been done to present this information to our community so that we remain informed. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rick Wetherell", is written over a horizontal line.

Rick Wetherell, Mayor
City of North Bend

cc: Senator Gordon Smith
Senator Ron Wyden
Congressman Peter DeFazio
Senator Joanne Verger
Representative Arnie Roblan