

TODD M. LOYD
33220 PITTSBURG RD.
ST. HELENS OREGON
97051

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RECEIVED

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Dear OR/WA BLM State Director Shepard:

I would like to take a few minutes of your time and tell you who I am, what I believe in and give you some of my concerns of the current management plan. I am not an environmentalist but I am a father of a 16 year old and true believer in conservation for our children. My family and I love to spend as much time in the outdoors as my time permits. Myself along with my wife love to hunt, fish. My 16 year old daughter enjoys watching the wildlife. As a family we camp every summer in Eastern Oregon in the same spot that my wife's family has been going to for over 50 years. We just sit and enjoy all the wildlife that "GOD" has created for us to see and enjoy, trying to pass it along to the next generation. I work in the timber industry and I believe in proper management of our forest land to create an environment for which the wildlife and the timber industry can co-exist. As I sit by and watch are timber lands being destroyed by fire putting are forest service personal at risk of injury or in some cases death is unacceptable. We have the knowledge to prevent or at least minimize the damages of these fires. Now we need the wisdom to use that knowledge, our children are counting on us to do the right thing. When we sit by and do nothing as a country, we are allowing are forest to burn up, it place peoples lives and livelihoods in jeopardy. This is not proper management of our timber lands. We as a country are allowing the voice of a few that have the money to be heard but are ignoring the voice of the many that truly care about what is happening to are forests and only wish is for it to be managed with are children in mind. When we allow the forest to burn up instead of using proper forest management we are selling are children short. Many of the fires burn so much land and often so hot that man or Mother Nature can not rebuild what fire has destroyed for many years. Is this what we want are children to see, some blackened dead forest? Do we call this timber management? We need to harvest the timber responsible and give our children what they need in our education system. "No timber No Money "Each year are schools population increases. The children share lockers, have over crowded class rooms and have to pay for anything extra. With timber dollars coming in it helps supports are schools but it also provides jobs for people to pay for taxes which in turn goes to schools. Our children are the future for this country. Let's educate them well and lead by example. I encourage you lead the way to help me to continue to show my family a healthy forest and what proper management of timber can create so that maybe one day my daughter might lead the way for her family.

Please accept the following comment on the BLM's current DEIS for the Revision of the Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon:

- While the Preferred Alternative 2 best represents the management alternative that I would support due to the fact that it provides the highest harvest level and funding to the Counties of the alternatives presented, none of the alternatives in my opinion meet the requirements set forth by the O&C Act because they do not manage the forested O&C lands for the dominant use of timber production as stated in the Act.
- The BLM must develop and analyze at least one alternative that maximizes the amount of land in timber production and receipts to local county governments, and meet its no-jeopardy obligation under the endangered species act.
- The BLM should consider active forest management for the protection of listed species and their habitat before adopting non-management reserve strategies. Disallowing timber harvesting in the majority (52%) of the forest land suitable for timber production is an ill-advised and scientifically unsound method of recovering a listed species and is contrary to the O&C Act. In the Southern Oregon area, timber reserves that do not allow harvesting have little chance of long term survival due to the high fire hazard that often exists in these forested lands. Areas that are designated to preserve characteristics that the owl and other listed species prefer should have a network of fuel breaks, roads and other forest management structures and techniques that will help to prevent the forest from being destroyed by wild fire.
- Only those areas where BLM ownership is large enough to make a significant contribution to the recovery of listed species should be allocated to that purpose.
- Congress and the President must ensure that when the plan is finalized that there is adequate funding to fully implement it. When implemented, the plan must adhere to the following principles to live up to the full commitment made to local counties:
 - Timber sale revenues must generate at least an amount equal to the funding that was provided to local counties through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act on a yearly basis.
 - Access should be maintained through BLM administered lands for private land access, fire suppression, as well as recreational uses, such as hunting, fishing, boating and sightseeing.

In summary, the economic viability of our rural communities and the overall health of our federal forests are of vital importance to me. I ask that you give these comments full consideration as you prepare the FEIS and select the final management plans.

Sincerely,



TODD M. LOYD