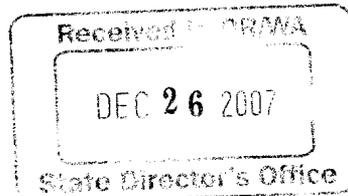


Dick Pradner 930



December 20, 2007

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To: OR/WA State Director Edward Shepard
Western Oregon Plan Revisions
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, Oregon 97208

From: Joe Horn
1109 Oak St.
Ashland, OR 97520

Dear Mr. Shepard:

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

I am a native Oregonian and a third generation forest products family. I was born and raised in Hood River, Oregon and take great pride in this State and the beautiful, natural environment we are endowed with. While attending Oregon State University in the mid 1970's it was clear that social forces were in motion that would change forest practices and the wood products industry in very dramatic ways. At that time several of my fellow students and I contemplated that it would be necessary to clearly delineate which lands would be managed for timber, and which lands would not be managed, or set aside for preservation.

As you know, a series of far reaching laws were enacted at the Federal and State levels mandating a process for planning and review. Over thirty years later, I look back and wonder what happened to that process? Our National Forests have become preserves and the BLM has been paralyzed by a long string of legal actions aimed at the elimination of timber harvesting at every turn.

I now find myself wondering whether the BLM can fulfill its mission and obligation as an agency. The current DEIS for the Revision of the Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon provides a range of alternative with a wide ranging focus on the production of timber for our National economy. I believe all the alternatives provide for adequate biological protection of species in accordance with the Endangered Species Act. However, the economic impacts of these alternatives to Oregon and its communities are very different. In fact, it could be argued that none of the alternatives meet the legal requirements directing the BLM to manage O&C lands for timber production as the dominate use.

Alternative 2 is the best option presented. However, the BLM may be required by law to present an additional alternative that meets Endangered Species Act requirements and also maximizes the acreage of land managed for timber production and funding to local county governments.

Page 2. – “comment on the BLM’s current DEIS” – Joe Horn

I believe it is possible to actively manage for protection of listed species habitat and that large scale non-management reserve strategies are unnecessary. This can be done in a way that provides economic benefits and species protection. Again, over thirty years ago as a college student studying plant and forest ecology it was clear that the concept of a reserve had no long-term viability due to forces such as fire and plant succession. Throughout the State it will be necessary to protect our Forests through the use of fuel breaks, roads, and other forest management techniques aimed at controlling the damage from wildfires that are inevitable.

Now for the “bottom line”. Using the States natural resources to generate revenues for local communities is vital. Oregon does not have the economic base to adequately replace the revenues generated by the timber products harvested and produced from O&C lands. The BLM should return to providing timber sale revenues 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. Also, due to the “checkerboard” nature of O&C lands, it is imperative that the agency continue to provide access 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. The BLM has a mission and an obligation to provide I ask that you give these comments full consideration as you prepare the FEIS and select the final management plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Horn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".