

1486

RECEIVED

JAN 02 2008

Bureau of Land Management
Oregon Plan Revisions Office
333 S.W. First Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204

I am a resident of Lane County, and have watched the BLM Plan Revision process (and the commentary it has generated) with great interest. As a retired school administrator who worked extensively with USFS in Powers, Oregon establishing a Native Species Program as a benefit to the school, community, and the USFS, I believe that I have some perspective regarding the forest plan process. In a nutshell, I believe that we have spent enough time writing plans (such as the Northwest Forest Plan and the Healthy Forests Initiative), and it is long past time to begin to truly initiate those plans.

I believe strongly that it is possible to enact programs that actually enhance the health of our forests and generate economy at the same time. I feel that you folks have the science and expertise to accomplish these goals; and I would encourage you to continue the process—recognizing full well that you will be criticized for even a well-intentioned, well-thought-out program. Indeed, I believe that it is your responsibility to enact such programs. I therefore encourage you to continue with your proposed program. I have seen far too many forest lands that are unhealthy, with millions (and probably billions) of board feet of timber going to waste because of disease, fire kill, or because of timber being of only one age or growing too closely together. Such diseased, dying, dead, or down timber can be used as a valuable resource for our communities and our economy. I sincerely hope that you can be successful in beginning to use these resources for the common good.

If I can help in any way, I would be happy to do so. I will include a business card for your reference.

Respectfully,

William D. Gehling
37272 Row River Road
Dorena, Oregon 97434

GEHLING ENTERPRISES

Bill Gehling Home: (541)946-2010
37272 Row River Road Cell: (541) 513-7309
Dorena, OR 97434 bnlgehling@msn.com