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David Elliott
2587 Paloma Avenue
Medford, OR 97504
December 28, 2007

RECEIVED
JAN 02 2008

Mr. Edward Shepard
OR/WA State Director
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

Re: BLM Western Oregon Plan Revision

Mr. Shepard:

I am writing to comment on the Western Oregon Plan Revision. It must be recognized, first and foremost that none of the alternatives meet the requirements of the O&C Act in the management of forestland for timber production. I am convinced that a management strategy can be developed and implemented that harmonizes with the O&C Act, our economic and public services needs, and serve the environment in a stewardly fashion. Proper management of our forestlands includes a plan for diverse uses. Many uses, on the surface, appear to mandate a use contrary to historical utilization but I am convinced that our forests can be managed successfully with all uses taken into consideration. The best plan available is not an "all or nothing" or "reserve" plan but a "smart" plan that ensures that our forests are managed for flora, fauna, and economic viability actively together. I implore the BLM to develop and provide an alternative that meets the agency's obligation to both the O&C Act and the Endangered Species Act through active management before resorting to "reserve type" alternatives.

Of the alternatives presented to the public currently, Alternative 2 is the only one that would merit any support, but it falls woefully short of meeting the economic viability and overall health needs of our forestlands. The management of our forestlands, or lack of, directly impacts critical funding for our counties. The management of our forestlands will either be a boost to local communities or condemn those same communities to a memory or a footnote in a textbook reminding us of what once was. The active management of our forestlands ensures they will remain healthy serving infinite generations to come. Critical funding and forest health can both be achieved through active management. Alternative 2 is the best of what's on the table today but our counties and its constituents should not have to settle for the shadow of a plan that could be developed with additional consideration to meeting the obligation directed under the O&C Act.

Please consider my comments as you develop the final management plan.

Sincerely,

