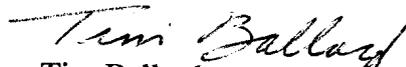




I sympathize with many federal land managers who are frequently caught in the middle: the timber industry wants them to harvest more; the environmental community wants them to harvest less. Restrictions of law also dictate the parameters within which agency managers in the BLM must operate. They are constrained by the O & C Act of 1937, which mandates that these lands be managed for permanent forest production. This law is outdated and need to be revised. Today there are 2,655,771 more Oregon residents than in 1940. Today there are 78,947 more residents of Douglas County than in 1940. In 1937 there were maybe a few hundred schools; today there are 1,234. The O & C Act directs the government to make payments from timber harvest profits to the counties and schools, based on the economy of 1937. Oregonians should not expect their public forests to continue paying for education and County operating costs. Times have changed, the timber safety net is being phased out, and Oregon's economy must diversify to meet current and future needs.

Alternative Three of this plan, designed to meet the court-ordered settlement agreement with the timber industry to remove reserves on public lands, defers harvest of old forests and provides a much better future for us all.

Sincerely,

  
Tim Ballard



Kim Treadwell  
9062 Buckhorn Road  
Roseburg, OR 97470



RANDALL BALLARD  
1187 NE LINCOLN  
ROSEBURG, OR 97470

cc: Senator's Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith, Rep. Peter DeFazio