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JAN 07 2008

January 4, 2008

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Alternative 3 as presented in the WOPR is the best of the alternatives made available in the Draft EIS as prepared.

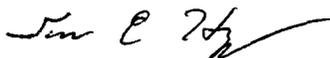
The lands you are charged with managing continue to produce volume and biomass. A forest system cannot be maintained in a static condition, alternatives prepared that provide to no opportunity to maintain stands, leave those stands vulnerable to catastrophic fire.

Implementation of Alternative 3 will require Congressional and Administration support in the form of funding. A straight forward and aggressive campaign to secure that funding will be essential to the success of the alternative, utilize the failure of previously un/under funded programs to drive home this point.

None of the alternatives comes close to meeting the objective set out in the O & C Act of primarily managing the lands for timber production. These revested lands have an obligation to provide a sustainable harvest volume and the receipts from those harvests to the local communities. The proposed Alternative 3 provides the best vehicle to move the management of our public resource back toward the O & C Act's prescribed management objective and provide a more stable but less than achievable level of funding for the local communities.

In preparing the alternatives presented, time and energy is expended to present a No Action Alternative that could perpetuate the failure to manage the O & C lands for timber production, leave them vulnerable to fire, and in declining health, with local communities struggling through a continuing financial crisis. Why then is there no alternative presented that would first follow the O & C Act by maximizing sustainable volume? Timber production and the monies associated can then fund forest health initiatives, attempt to reduce catastrophic fire, and provide local communities with stable funding

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



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