

January 4, 2008

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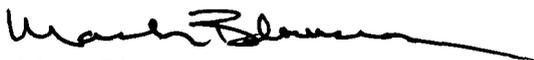
ORWA State Director Edward Shepard  
Western Oregon Plan Revisions  
Bureau of Land Management  
P.O. Box 2965  
Portland, OR 97208

Dear Director Shepard:

As a resident of southern Oregon, more specifically Rogue River, I am writing you to express my deep concern as to which management plan the BLM decides to implement. As the steward of over 2.5 million acres of publicly owned land in western Oregon, the BLM is charged with maintaining the vitality of our forests and rural communities now and for future generations. As I understand it, all the alternatives have been developed to meet the legal requirements for fish, wildlife and other resource values. I support alternative 2 (Alt 2). The level of harvest with Alt 2 is projected to achieve 94% of the historical payments to the counties without compromising the resource values that are important to all of us living here. Harvesting over 700 million board feet annually will greatly reduce the high fire hazard, lend stability to our county governments, communities and schools and provide much needed raw materials for our manufacturing facilities.

I would like to add that while I support Alt 2 it does not go far enough to meet the requirements of the O & C Act. The O & C lands should be managed primarily for timber production as stated in the Act. Not actively managing over 50% of the forested land is not scientifically based nor is it in compliance with the O & C Act, and allows for the same catastrophic fire events that we see every year throughout our national forests. Areas that are designated to preserve owl and other species habitat should be managed to do that. Fire behavior is dramatically different where fuel loading has been reduced through active management. The O & C lands are a tremendous resource that with good stewardship through active on-going management can meet all of the goals the BLM is charged with, without compromising the O & C Act.

Sincerely,



Mark Blowers  
PO Box 100  
Medford, OR 97501