



1940
RECEIVED

JAN 11 2008

January 8, 2008

Edward Shepard, OR/WA Director
Bureau of Land Management, Western Oregon Plan Revisions
PO Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

Dear Ed,

Our unhealthy Western-Oregon BLM forests continue to face destructive losses from wildfire, pests, disease and storms. Also, the vitality of Oregon's rural communities and forest sector infrastructure suffer from declining federal forest management and timber supply over the past 17-years. The BLM draft Western OR Plan Revision (WOPR) preferred Alternative 2 is important progress to improve rural economies, timber infrastructure and forest health, and to prevent destructive losses.

Although Alternative 2 would be progress forward, I recommend that a new "Modified Alternative 2 Plus" be developed – which manages greater forest acreage and higher intensity. A *Modified Alternative 2 Plus* would be the best management approach to meet the immediate funding needs of local counties, while working to protect our environment. I urge you to apply due diligence to finalize the WOPR, and ensure that adequate funding is sought to implement the Plan. The WOPR should adhere to the following principles:

1. Develop a new "Modified Alternative 2 Plus" – integrating greater management intensity and acreage.
2. Harvest 960 million board feet annually; or 80% of the annual timber growth capability.
3. Expand the harvestable land base to 60% of BLM forestland, to provide a stable timber supply.
4. This increased timber supply would sustain a more vibrant Oregon timber infrastructure – manufacturing, logging, transportation, forestry, and other induced business.
5. Increase the fire resiliency of the forest in Southwest Oregon by using active mechanical harvesting.
6. Speed the redevelopment of structurally complex forest after regeneration timber harvesting by retain 2-6 reserve trees/acre, down wood and diverse riparian trees.
7. Accelerate recovery of damaged/killed forest – reduce waste of valuable timber and increase county revenues – by more aggressive use of salvaging, site prep, vegetation control and reforestation.
8. Help recover the northern spotted owl and marble murrelet by: a) mechanical harvest to provide a range of different structures that maintain a dynamic forest



- landscape over space and time; and b) adopt improved species take avoidance strategies that utilize mechanical harvest for desired habitat diversity.
9. Timber harvest to generate over 100% of annual county subsidy paid from Secure Rural Schools Act.
 10. Minimize threat of destructive loss on BLM lands, and BLM threats spreading to non-federal neighbors.
 11. Improve road access and easements through BLM land for non-federal property access and rights-of-ways, as well as for BLM management and recreation uses.
 12. Favor active management for habitat maintenance, rather than passive "reserve" strategies.
 13. Avoid unnecessary restrictions that become barriers to road construction and active harvesting
 14. Encourage local management flexibility and professional discretion tailored to local conditions.

Of the three alternatives being considered by the BLM, I urge you to adopt a new "Modified Alternative 2 Plus" – that would harvest 960 million board feet annually. This Modified Alternative 2 Plus would meet the funding needs of local counties, provide needed timber supply and improve forest health, while also protecting our environment. I look forward to working together toward finalizing the WOPR Plan, and ensuring that it receives adequate funding to be fully implemented.

Thank you for understanding the importance of economic vitality in Oregon's forest sector, and its vital contributions toward rural communities, Oregon's economy, and health of BLM forestlands.

Sincerely,

Wayne Stone
Wayne Stone Logging, Inc.

WS/lb