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TO Western Oregon Plan Revision  
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FROM Roger Brandt  
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RE WOPR will cause loss of 39,000 jobs

Dear Review Staff:

The authors claim the WOPR will create 3,600 new timber jobs but they make no effort to understand how many jobs must be sacrificed from other economic sectors to make this possible even though they acknowledge jobs and income will be lost as a result of creating timber jobs (Vol. II, page 549. Community Well-being).

The following tally sheet illustrates that the WOPR will actually result in a **net LOSS of 39,000 jobs** in the O&C corridor.

This is not a plan – it is an economic disaster.

An additional sheet is included with the estimated jobs that could be created if the authors of the WOPR redirected their focus away from the singular purpose of creating timber jobs and nothing else to a focus that puts Oregon communities to work. A community oriented plan will make these lands economically productive every year, with each job able to use the many economic values of the forest to generate an income. This makes it possible to create diversity of jobs from the same acre of land. Conversely, the current version of the WOPR commits each acre of land so it is only possible to generate an economic output once every 80-100 years.

A community approach will result in a **net GAIN of 53,000 jobs**.

The O&C Act was written with the intention of using timber management to put the community to work. Following the Act and achieving the five purposes (the community's part of the act) is not only the right thing to do but also the most economically viable solution for management of O&C lands.

Scrap the WOPR. It's going to kill us economically. Think carefully what the WOPR is poised to accomplish - 2.6 million acres to create 3,600 jobs. Please tell me you are not serious about this. You can do much better and we Americans are depending on you to excel. Rewrite this plan to put the community to work and create 53,000 jobs with a future. That is something to aspire for.

Roger Brandt

**39,000 jobs will be lost under current WOPR plan to create timber jobs**

The WOPR, which is focused on the single objective of creating timber jobs, will cause an estimated net loss of 39,000 jobs in Oregon over the next 20 years. The following tally sheet explains how this estimate was determined

+3,600 jobs	Timber jobs	The authors of the WOPR estimate they will create 3,600 timber jobs with their plan.
- 250 jobs	Field jobs lost to mechanization	Field jobs will be lost as old growth forests are converted into plantations that can be harvested and managed by mechanical harvesters. This estimate assumes mechanical harvesting will result in a 25% loss of traditional, on-the-ground harvesting jobs. It is assumed that, out of the 3,600 jobs to be created by the WOPR, about 1,000 of these are field jobs. 25% of 1000 =250
-1,000 jobs	Mill jobs lost to automation	During the past 15 years, about two million manufacturing jobs were lost to automation, out-sourcing and other factors. Automation is expected to cause a continuing trend of job loss in the future. The 1,000 jobs estimated to be lost assumes this trend will continue over the next 20 years. The 1000 jobs lost is a speculative estimate but it is considered here because job loss to automation is an inescapable reality.
-3,600 jobs	Timber exports	Corporations are increasingly moving operations overseas because of lower labor costs. Timber and pulp wood export to other nations are currently about 700 million board feet per year, the same amount to be harvested from O&C lands. If the BLM estimates 3,600 jobs will be created by the harvesting of 700 million board feet then it might infer that the same number of jobs will be lost by export of private timber. There is no timber shortage, just a lack of dedication by corporations to keep jobs in America.
- 100 jobs	Timber land sold to developers	Private timber lands are being sold because higher profit can be made from land development than growing timber. Projections suggest that 26 million acres of private timber

land will be lost to development by 2030. If the WOPR creates 3,600 jobs with 2.6 million acres then the loss of 26 million acres of private timber land might infer there will 36,000 timber jobs lost nation-wide. The estimated 100 jobs lost is speculative yet very conservative and is included in this tally sheet because losses such as this are a reality and need to be counted.

- 500 jobs            Real estate jobs

WOPR clear-cuts will reduce property value with a total loss in the 18 O&C counties estimated at about five billion dollars. Real estate agents get about 10% commission on property sales. The loss to the real estate industry would be about 500 million dollars. The job loss estimate assumes a realtor making 50,000/year over a 20 year career would earn about one million dollars.

-8,000 jobs            Tourism – Recreation jobs

Clear-cut logging will seriously impair the competitiveness of Oregon's tourism industry. In 2006, tourism spending in the USA was 700 billion. The share to each state should be 14 billion but Oregon currently earns about 6 billion. Impairment of competitiveness places Oregon at risk of being unable to compete for the remaining 8 billion dollars per year in future tourism spending. The estimate of job loss assumes tourism jobs earning \$50,000/year would earn one million dollars over a 20 year career.

+ 100 jobs            Fire fighter jobs

The conversion of fire resilient forest landscapes into densely packed plantations will increase fire hazards. It is assumed that over the next 20 years, there will be an increasing need for fire fighters. However, **the cost for fire fighting will be paid by imposing tax burdens on the public**, not corporations who will profit from these plantations. The estimate of 100 represents full-time equivalents (FTE). This means the incomes from several seasonal jobs are grouped to make the equivalent of one full time job that earns \$50,000/year.

+ 10 jobs            Lawyers

The WOPR will force people of Oregon to fight for their lives. However, **the cost for fighting the public will be paid by imposing**

**tax burdens on the public, not corporations who will profit from the WOPR. The estimate of 10 represents full-time equivalents (FTE). This means the incomes from individuals working on government litigation teams are grouped to make the equivalent of one full time job that earns \$100,000/year over the span of 20 years.**

-30,000 jobs      **Quality of life jobs**

**During the next 20 years, WOPR will seriously impair the ability of Oregon to attract industries, businesses, entrepreneurs and innovators who choose the location where they set up business based on the quality of life values a community provides. Quality of life is projected to be the defining factor that will make rural communities economically competitive in the future. Over the next 20 years, the competition for these job sources will intensify, especially with the changing global economy. The ability of a community to compete for these jobs will define its economic stability and resilience. The loss of 30,000 jobs is a conservative estimate that includes both jobs that will be driven out of Oregon with the loss of quality of life as well as impairment of Oregon's ability to compete for a share of these jobs in the future. These losses are directly tied to the objectives of forest management.**

### **Conclusion**

**The WOPR inflicts a net loss of about -39,000 jobs**

### **What is the problem?**

**The WOPR is focused on creating jobs only for the timber industry and in this way manages each acre of O&C lands so an economic output is generated once every 80-100 years. In doing so, it discards all other sources of revenue that a forest can generate. The plan needs to be scrapped and rewritten to put the entire community to work and use forest resources to create both timber and non-timber jobs in a way that make these lands productive every year.**

**We can do better than this.**

## **53,000 Jobs could be created if the WOPR puts the community to work**

The WOPR could produce many jobs if it was rewritten to put the community to work and make each acre of O&C lands economically productive every year rather than generating an economic output once every 80-100 years as proposed in the WOPR. The following helps to explain how 53,000 jobs would be created.

+20,000 jobs	Timber field jobs	If the WOPR adopted an alternate forest plan such as the Natural Selection Alternative (Vol. I, page 107), there would be about eight permanent jobs created for each 1,000 acres of O&C land. This style of forest management is much more productive because, unlike clear-cutting, the canopy is retained and ALL sunlight is used to produce wood fiber every year. Conversely, a replanted clear-cut landscape wastes the majority of productive sunlight, which falls on bare ground between seedling trees – this loss will persist for 25 years). A strategy of fiber production that uses all sunlight will make it possible for 2.6 million acres to sustain 20,000 timber jobs for the entire career of each worker. At the same time, the forest is being managed to create entrepreneurial opportunities for the local community through fostering quality of life values. The forest generates a steady supply of timber but also puts other people in the community to work.
+ 8,000 jobs	Tourism jobs	Unique logging practices create a marketing asset for making Oregon more competitive in attracting tourism spending. The estimate of 8,000 jobs assumes that a greater competitiveness will increase tourism spending by as much as 8 billion dollars per year in future tourism spending. The estimate of job gains assumes tourism jobs earning \$50,000/year would earn one million dollars over a 20 year career.
+5,200 jobs	Entrepreneur jobs	Forest management with unique, community supportive objectives creates opportunity for entrepreneurs and small business. For example, trails that increase mountain biking, ATV or equestrian activity will support tack shops, engine repair or bicycle shops. Creative forest management gives the community many avenues for business and job creation, which is not the case with the current version of the WOPR. The 5,200

job estimate assumes that two entrepreneur jobs will be created for every 1,000 acres of O&C lands.

+ 100 jobs

Real Estate

A higher quality of life is generated by the retention of scenic landscapes, forest canopies and creation of recreational opportunities. These values increase the value of property and realtors derive more income from sales. Land owners retain their property value and property is easier to market and sell. The increase of property value might be enough to support 100 new real estate jobs over the next 20 years.

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Fire jobs

The number of fire jobs are not expected to increase because timber objectives in the Natural Selection Alternative create a fire resistant forest of tall trees. Fire is easier to control.

+10 jobs

Lawyer jobs

The community becomes stakeholders in the local forest and objectives of forest management will be tailored to the needs and concerns of the community. However, the corporations are expected to try to take these lands away from the public through litigation. The use of our tax money to fight these corporate assaults is absolutely acceptable to me.

+20,000 jobs

Quality of Life

During the next 20 years, a community-based timber management will increase quality of life, the factor that will give rural communities the strongest economic future. A higher quality of life will help to retain the jobs that are already in Oregon and will open the door for attracting additional jobs over the next 20 years. This will include jobs from light industry and small business as well as individual who create their own jobs through innovation and home-based businesses or people who telecommute or retirees with pensions that provide a monthly income, which is viewed here as the equivalent of a paycheck. The 20,000 increase in jobs is a speculative value but nevertheless is considered to be very conservative.

## **Conclusion**

A forest management plan that puts the community to work will make O&C lands economically productive every year and create as many as **39,000 new jobs**. And this can be accomplished while at the same time **HARVESTING A SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY OF TIMBER**.

This is what the O&C Act tells the BLM to do.

The Act is a forest management plan that puts the community to work and makes O&C lands economically productive every year. The WOPR is a forest harvest plan that destroys jobs, reduces property value and imposes a tax liability on America with the objective of committing these lands to producing an economic output once every 80-100 years – a decisively destructive approach to land management.

Discard the WOPR and rewrite it to put Oregon communities to work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Brandt', with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

**Roger Brandt**