

2108

RECEIVED

JAN 11 2008

Bureau of Land Management, Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office
333 SW 1st. Avenue, Portland, OR 97208

Dear BLM,

I do forest work for a living and have done so for more 30 years. I have worked for the BLM, Forest Service, private timber companies and many small and large individual forest land owners.

In that time I have studied and learned that the forests are complex and diverse and each part of that diversity contributes to the health and longevity of the whole forest system.

I have performed every aspect of forestry on these BLM lands. I work and play on and around these lands. I like to hunt, fish, hike, ski, snow shoe and enjoy free time on and around these lands with family, friends and neighbors.

Every effort must be make to protect all species living in the forest community. Each species must survive, grow and reproduce as they have for many thousands of years. All remaining old growth forests must be protected as these areas are our only true genetic seed banks, these forests are critical for fish runs and other animals and are very important to our tourist economy once we lose these resources they are gone forever.

The no action alternative provides the best protection of our old growth forests, of the choices presented. I strongly urge that we continue with this no action alternative.

Fish and fisheries are critically important to our forests. Scientists are discovering how fish runs are important to the creation and maintenance of our forests. Fisheries are very important to the local economy both through commercial fisheries, tourism and local recreational fishing.

The current no action alternative offers the best protection of our fisheries. I favor this as the best alternatives for both the fish habitat protection and hopefully enhancement and watershed protection for people, plants and animals.

Herbicides should never be used in the forest. They have been shown to be ineffective and dangerous. Safe alternatives are available which provide employment to Oregonians and stimulate the economy. Risking genetic mutation, miscarriage, cancer and water contamination far outweighs any perceived reforestation benefits. Every known dangerous and banned herbicide was at one time considered safe and effective.

I must point out that your so called no action alternative is misnamed as it does involved lots of action and seems to be the current plan in use. A true no action plan is not offered or considered yet for any

scientific study to be accurate a control group or true action alternative is needed. Thus some areas of the forest must be left untouched by the human hand so that we can gauge if our management of other areas is being effective.

Please reissue a DEIS which includes alternatives that better protect our tourism economy and environment and not just worst options as presented.

Tourism is now bigger than timber in the Oregon economy. Much of Oregon's tourism is because of its pristine natural resources. 69 million people visit Oregon's forests and parks each year (according to the Forest Resource Institute) Increased logging would hurt Oregon's tourism in perpetuity.

Studies have shown that logging costs more dollars in fishing than it produces in timber.

All of the alternatives proposed offer less protection to fish and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, waterways and watersheds while increasing logging, road building and ATV usage. \All of the alternatives give less protection to ACECs and greater impact on old growth forests and increases the potential of catastrophic forest fires. Because of these facts I ask the BLM to reissues the draft Environmental Impact Statement with alternatives and offer more environmental protection, not just less than the status quo.

As the draft EIS now stands I strongly urge you to favor the current no action alternative plan offering the best hope for failing fish runs, long term protection of our natures treasure of pristine old growth forest. These forests are a genetic seed bank that offers plant and animal protection nd diversirt, long term recreation and tourism, a key part of the Oregon Economy certain to grow provided our these lands remain pristine.

Please mange our forest lands for generations so that these resources may be enjoyed in perpetuity.

Sincerely,



Tom Marr

955 N. Mountain Ave. Ashland OR, 97520