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January, 4 2008

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OR/WA State Director Edward Shepard
Western Oregon Plan Revisions
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 2935
Portland, OR 97208

Dear Sir,

I am writing you this letter to let you know about my concerns over the proposed BLM's Forest Management Plans and my choice of which plan I would prefer if this is all the plans the BLM intends to offer.

I live and work in Jackson County and I have watched how our county government has and is struggling to fund the bare essentials of their budgets. The single biggest reason for this lack of funds has been caused by the BLM and other Federal Forests not operating their lands for multiple use and harvesting their forests on a sustained yield basis. In fact almost operating with no harvest at all. The Federal Government owns about 2/3's of the timber land base in Southern Oregon and yet pay almost no tax or funds to the local counties. However, the Federal Government and its employees use county roads, depend on county law protection and many other county services. I do not think that was the intent when the Federal Government set aside these lands and I think the O&C lands and Act that govern them is a good example. I do not think it is at all "fair" to the citizens of these counties to have to support the Federal Government and their employees.

I think the citizens of these counties have been very patient while waiting for the BLM to put together a plan of action. I think it is about time the BLM puts a plan into action.

I think up to this point the BLM is wasting a huge natural resource. Trees do not live forever and we are wasting what this real estate was set aside for. The BLM and the county citizens are being governed by a small group of extremists. We have been blessed with a huge renewable natural resource that will die because of lack of management. This will happen by fires, bug infestations, and diseases. The animal habit will be destroyed because they will either perish in a fire or for the lack of adequate habitat.

Of the choices of plans you are offering I would like to see the Preferred Alternative 2 put into action because it provides for the highest harvest levels and funding for our counties. I do not believe even this plan does not meet the requirements of the O&C Act because these lands are not managed to dominate the use of timber production.

I would really like to see a plan that maximizes timber production and funding to the counties.

I believe the BLM should actively manage the forest lands that they have been given the authority to do and be responsible owners that consider and meet the needs of the majority of the population and the wildlife that depend on these lands.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard Hill".

Richard Hill
P. O. Box 1233
Jacksonville, OR 97530