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Western Oregon Plan Revisions
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To Whom It May Concern:

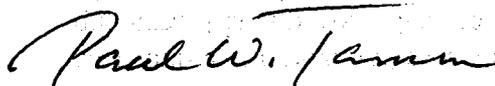
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Revision of the Resource Management Plans for the Western Oregon Bureau of Land Management Districts. It is clear from the documents supplied that the BLM has put a tremendous amount of work into developing alternatives to the management strategy promulgated under the Northwest Forest Plan.

As a resident of Douglas County and a frequent user of BLM lands in both the Roseburg and Medford Districts for recreational purposes, I have a keen interest in how these lands will be managed. These lands represent a significant economic resource for our area both as a source of timber and as a source of recreation related activities. While harder to quantify, it is important that the economic benefit of the latter use not be underestimated. Therefore, I looked at the proposed alternatives from both perspectives.

Of the three alternatives to the existing management strategy, it would appear to me that Alternative 3 offers the best balance between resource extraction (timber harvest) and environmental protection. Although this alternative subjects the greatest fraction of the available land to resource extraction, it does so in a way that best preserves its use as wildlife habitat and a recreational resource. It has been shown time and again that complex ecologic systems are far more resilient than systems that have been oversimplified by placing emphasis on one, or a small number, of their aspects. While the plan revisions dedicate considerable attention to the preservation of two already endangered species, the Northern Spotted Owl and the Marbled Murrelet, there appears to be less consideration given to the potential that each alternative may have for endangering additional species. I believe that Alternative 3 is the least likely to lead to additional endangered species.

I look forward to reviewing the changes in the Final Environmental Impact Statement that come as a result of input from the public and other agencies.

Sincerely,



Paul W. Tamm