CORVALLIS-BENTON
CHAMBER
COALITION

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January 12, 2008

Randy Gould
Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office
Salem District
1717 Fabry Road, SE
Salem, OR 97306-1208

Dear Randy,

The Corvallis Benton Chamber Coalition has reviewed and deliberated on the BLM forest management alternatives listed for the revision of the Western Oregon Plan. We are equally concerned about the economic and environmental impacts of the alternatives being considered. The Chamber Coalition supports Alternative Two within the Bureau of Land Management's Western Oregon Plan Revisions, contingent upon and sensitive to addressing compliance with the ESA.

This position was informed by and built upon the following points:

1. We are concerned about assertions from environmental groups that the WOPR violates the ESA. We expect BLM to produce a final WOPR with the adequate scientific basis to withstand legal challenges regarding the ESA. We are concerned about the serious continuing impacts on the western Oregon forest industry and rural economies if the WOPR is successfully challenged in court.
2. THE BLM should not eliminate an existing ACEC's without clear justification and consultation with other cooperating agencies. We are particularly concerned about the apparent deletion of existing ACEC's on Mary's Peak.
3. We expect BLM to continue to abide by their agreement to meet or exceed the Oregon Forest Practices Act and its rules. For example: We are concerned by the proposal under alternative two that no green trees be left standing in rotational harvest units.
4. We are concerned about the possibility that this plan will be a regional cook book and not allow the site specific application of forestry knowledge and principals in harvest prescriptions.
5. it is important that the BLM manage its lands to control insects, diseases and fire so that these do not spread to adjacent checker boarded private lands.
6. There is a need to maintain viable local milling capacity, as near to the resource as possible, for longer rotation logs in order to sustain an incentive for landholders to grow longer rotation, big trees.
7. we would like to see more flexibility in scheduling the rate of production off of Federal (BLM) lands to more closely match market demand fluctuations. Increased BLM production in a down market could depress local markets even in a good national market. The WOPR currently doesn't address this issue.

We urge the Bureau of Land Management to address the cautions and expectations in our seven points, in order to fashion the final preferred alternative, using Alternative Two as the core.

Sincerely,

M. Rusk

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President