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Jacksonville, OR 97530

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NOV 06 2007

November 1, 2007

Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

Dear Director:

We live full time at the above address, which neighbors Anderson Butte. We moved to Oregon over three years ago from Northern California in order to enjoy what we felt to be a better quality of life. We choose the location of our home based on the fact that it was located in a rural scenic area that allowed us to enjoy the landscape, wildlife and tranquility while still being close to the urban benefits of medical care, shopping, etc. One of our direct bordering neighbors is BLM and we paid a premium to purchase our lot based on the minimum 20-acre required lots in this area and the fact that BLM was a good neighbor abiding by the Northwest Forest Plan.

The fact that BLM has dropped out of the Northwest Forest Plan and is now proposing various alternatives that would greatly change the management of their lands is of serious concern to us as neighboring landowners. We feel that these proposed alternatives would not only adversely affect the value of our property, but also just as importantly negatively impact our enjoyment of our location.

Our concerns are in two major categories: proposed OHV park designations and logging practices. Many of our concerns about these issues are not just specific to Anderson Butte, but also the proposal in general.

OHV Park Designations:

- Why is Southern Oregon the location of the vast majority of proposed additional OHV parks and why is there a need to increase the number over 400%?
- The plan recommends that hikers and horseback riders do NOT use the OHV designated areas because of dangers. Why is BLM designating public lands owned by all taxpayers to be used by a limited group to the exclusion of all other taxpayers?
- Is BLM designating any parks for hikers? Horseback riders? Birdwatchers?
- Destruction of terrain in OHV areas is horrendous—John's Peak, for example. The impact to the watershed from the runoff from erosion is terrible.
- Living near and in forestland makes fires a constant concern. OHV create a fire danger. Why would BLM promote OHV use in forested areas? We were told at the meeting that there will be no additions to the two rangers currently employed so how will BLM keep OHV users out of these forestland OHV areas when the summer fire season begins?

Anderson Butte OHV Area:

- Property values will decrease. Who will reimburse the property owners for this?
- Noise levels from OHV, including motorcycles, is totally obnoxious. We already have people utilizing Anderson Butte (who claim they have received a map from the local BLM office

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showing Anderson Butte for OHV use). The revving of engines up and down the mountainside echoes through our small valley making it impossible to sit out on our deck when it is occurring. We can't imagine how we will ever be able to enjoy our own yard if this OHV area is ever "officially" designated.

- Griffin Lane is a dirt road, which suffers from erosion and potholes with the normal community use. Increased traffic will deteriorate this road even faster than is currently happening. Who will pay for the increased maintenance costs? Not to mention the increased dust to the community.
- The road we live on is a paved "spur" to Griffin Lane (also called Griffin Lane). This is designated as a "private road not maintained by the county." The BLM trails to Anderson Butte lead from the end of our private road. We cannot condone or allow the use of our private road by OHVs because we do not want the liability associated with such "permission." How will we be able to keep them off our road?
- We have a huge concern about the fire danger.

Logging:

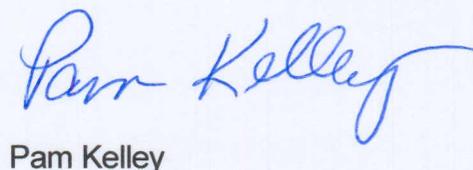
- We've been told it took years to negotiate the Northwest Forest Plan and the local neighbors worked hard with the local BLM office to come up with plans for the area that were acceptable to both parties. These new proposals undermine all that hard work.
- Clear-cutting is not considered environmentally safe due to the effects of erosion on the watershed. We take issue with a plan that will call the felling of all but six trees in the middle of one acre, "regeneration harvesting".
- We are all for selective harvesting of secondary growth timber in order to reduce fire danger. We are totally against harvesting of old growth timber (which is included in the alternatives), clear-cutting (or even "almost" clear-cutting).

While we may not know all the technical terms and scientific facts that concern these plans, we feel very strongly about these issues. It affects not only our ability to enjoy our own property and the property surrounding us, but it negatively affects our property values. While these comments are our personal comments, we are in agreement with many of our neighbors in the Applegate community and intend to work with various groups that oppose these plans. We are really hoping to enjoy remaining at our location for years to come.

Sincerely,



Don Kelley



Pam Kelley

CC:

Senator Ron Wyden
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Senator Gordon Smith
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Portland, OR 97204

Rep. Greg Walden
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