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Dear Mr. Shepard,

I live next to BLM land and I am disgusted with the waste of these natural resources and the non-management of some of this Natio most productive timber producing land. I am told that 3 townships south of Camas Valley are no longer managed for wood production but are reserved for old growth species habitat - not endangered species mind you, just old growth species (if there is such a thing). West of Camas Valley is Marbled Murrelet habitat and any old growth is full of spotted owls (so is the second growth). I sometimes do salvage logging for BLM when there are logs in a road and they can get a catagorical exclusion for me to remove part of a tree. Most of the downed tree has to be left to rot because it would damage the old growth ecosystem to drag the whole tree out. Just one tree can be worth over $5000 but what does BLM care? A salamander might want to lay eggs under its bark. There are thousands of other trees down farther from the road but the salamander might want to use this one. (non-endangered)

There was alot of blown down timber in a thinned unit that BLM had been selling if I would keep all my equipment on the roadway. I also did some thinning in some progeny study plots that saved BLM the costs of hiring it done and let me make some money on the merch logs. All that stopped this spring when a judge decided that not enough study had been done on the spotted owl. These salvage & thinning jobs have nothing to do with old

growth or the spotted owls but BLM still stopped selling any logs and by now most of what was cruised this spring is rotten or checked. What does BLM care? If their resources rot they can still pay their employees. A private timber owner wants production from his land. So does a farmer, or a mobile home park owner, or a golf course owner. Nobody but the government can just let their land sit there and not produce anything. Yet that seems to be the goal for the majority of BLM & O&C lands. The people making these decisions are out of touch with the land that they supposedly manage. We need some common sense and practical know-how from someone who has owned timber land and managed it for the benefit of himself, his family, and his ~~commu~~ Community and society. We already have plenty of land locked up in wilderness areas that just sits there and looks pretty until it burns up.

I'm not someone who lives + works in the city and goes camping in a manicured campground once or twice a year and wants to save all the big pretty trees. I live here and work here and raise my family in these forests - hunting + hiking + fishing + camping and my opinion is every bit as valid and much more realistic than my campground counterpart. These forests are capable of producing much more timber and should be managed that way. Stop wasting these resources and start producing timber instead of letting it rot.

I get a little irritated when discussing government timber management but having been involved for 50 years in timber management makes me aware of how unreasonable all three Regional Management Plans are.

Thanks Ben Reetz