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PlumCreek

January 6, 2006

Mr. Brian Amme
Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, Nevada 89520-0006

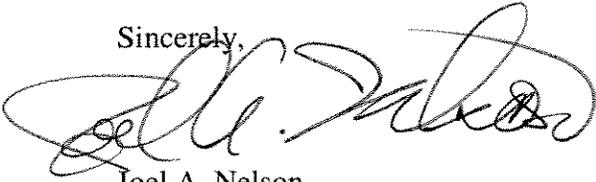
Dear Mr. Amme:

- 1 The Oregon Operations of Plum Creek Timber Company appreciates the opportunity to comment on BLM's *Draft Vegetation Treatments on Bureau of Land Management lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Report (PER)* and *Draft Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic EIS (PEIS)*. We would like to commend the BLM staff for the excellent and thorough job you have done preparing the documents. Please note, Plum Creek greatly values the professional relationship we have with the Coos Bay District BLM staff in our day-to-day work where our lands intermingle.
- 2 As a major timberland owner and manager, Plum Creek recognizes vegetation management as a very key part of maintaining the long-term ecological health and productivity of our forests. Our participation in the Sustainable Forest Initiative demonstrates our strong commitment to forest health. We are concerned that public agencies manage their lands well and the possible impact of their land management activities (or lack of activities) on our lands.
- 3 For example, where we are neighbors and must cross one another's lands, vegetation management along roads is critical to our operations. Roads must be maintained and open to use for silvicultural treatments such as planting and fertilization, and for harvest activities. Given the large investments in western Oregon timberlands and resulting timber values, wildfire and wildfire suppression costs are simply unacceptable to landowners and the state of Oregon. Vegetation along BLM roads must be managed to allow all landowners and fire protection agencies access for wildfire suppression. Vegetation in BLM forest stands must be managed to reduce the risk of wildfire and usable roads are essential for wildfire suppression activities that must be rapid and effective to stop fires while they are small.

4 Living in a society where worldwide travel is common, we see ever increasing nonnative invasive species appearing along roads and other rights-of-ways. Controlling noxious weeds is critical to maintaining the health and productivity of our forests. We applaud the noxious weed control work presently being done by the Coos Bay District BLM and urge the BLM to continue and expand efforts.

5 Vegetation management requires the use of integrated vegetation control methods. The PER and PEIS address the issues very well. Of the five program alternatives in the PEIS, we support Alternative B, the preferred alternative. This alternative appears to allow BLM land managers the most flexibility and options in picking the most appropriate treatment for the area to be treated.

Sincerely,



Joel A. Nelson
Senior Resource Manager - Oregon

CC: Mark Johnson - Coos Bay District BLM