

Mount Hood Corridor
Community Planning Organization

P.O. Box 632, Welches, OR. 97067

To: Western Oregon Plan Revisions
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

Date: January 7, 2008

From: Mount Hood Corridor
Community Planning Organization
P.O. Box 632
Welches, OR 97067

Re: BLM WOPR Support of No Action Alternative

The BLM WOPR was discussed at the January 3 '08 general meeting of the Mount Hood Corridor CPO. There was a unanimous vote to support the No Action alternative. The WOPR makes assumptions we strongly disagree with, and the other alternatives include environmental impacts we consider excessive.

The **private lands** assumption (page 477) that patterns of vegetation have not changed is incorrect; these patterns have changed. Future conditions are expected to develop with reduced forest diversity.

The chapter 4 Environmental Consequences **climate change** section uses an unacceptable assumption “no change” (page 491 paragraph 2). Climate change in our region is well documented. The term “speculative” demonstrates a disregard for the scientific facts. Cumulative effects of reduced stream buffers, increased clearcuts and road building, with the current or future climate in our region, will be detrimental.

The smaller stream buffers proposed in figure 253 on page 728 are not addressing species recovery or existing habitat conservation, as required under multiple Federal Acts. The buffer reductions could impact adjoining non-BLM lands and negatively impact fish and wildlife. There could also be impacts on areas with domestic water use, negatively affecting water quantities and temperatures.

There have been significant efforts in our area in reducing invasive plant infestations. Alternative 2 would seriously threaten these efforts regionally, and do not comply with Executive Order 13112 on page A936. The statement on page 631 “Alternative 2 would have the greatest risk of introducing invasive plant species infestation” is unacceptable. These problems are compounded with increased road building and OHV use.

In conclusion, the Mount Hood Corridor CPO does not support Alternative 2 and recommends the No Action alternative.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the WOPR.

Don Mench
Mount Hood Corridor CPO Chair