

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/20/2024 4:00:00 AM

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September 20, 2024

Director, Ecosystem Management Coordination

201 14th Street SW, Mailstop 1108

Washington, DC 20250-1124

Dear Director,

I am writing on behalf of my wife, Ms. Cheryl Cramer and myself, John Peel, owners of a forestland tract of @300 acres in Walla County of eastern Oregon. We are writing in support of Alternative 2 in the Environmental Impact Statement of June, 2024. Our reading and discussion have included the opening Summary as well as sections and passages later in the document that amplify matters in the summary. The Statement is impressive in the scope of its analysis, presentation of historical management actions and proposals for future management activity in mature and old growth forests.

We deeply believe that our legacy forests should be left as intact as possible; they are powerful statements of 'god's grandeur' that have inspired us and must be left for the benefit of future generation. Toward this goal we are glad to see cutting and commercial harvest taken off the table in Alternative 2. It makes no economic sense to harvest large wood for which no mill is equipped to saw such logs! No new roads should be built in old growth forests to access sawlogs either from live or fallen trees. The soils associated with old growth must be left undisturbed: the fungi as well as fledgling seedlings and saplings, progeny of the ancient trees must be left to nourish and flourish and not fall to wanton greed from a public timber sale. Our economy does not need old growth lumber; private forests throughout the western United States are overstocked and have been since the rash of mill closings that began with the Great Recession.

Climate change will be playing a larger role in the management of all our forests. The best land management plan will do nothing if it is not nimble and adaptable to best science and best practices (as developed by natural resource scientist', agency' and academic' research). Having one of our major political parties, so resplendent with outlandish climate-change-deniers has us worried for all forest types and will require USFS leadership to be staunch in its support and defense for the Amendments to Land Management Plans to Address Old Growth

forests.

We agree with the guidelines for proposal and approval of local projects and for the need to monitor the success of management actions in meaningful, documented and publishable form. We want and need the visible, viable and prideful success of the USFS's Amended Land Management Plans to be acknowledged. Sadly, there are more than a few businesses, commercial entities and already-wealthy individuals whose desire is to see failure in any government actions. Their biased view of success or failure of the revisions to old growth management will lead to calls for putting our rarest, collectively-owned and most sacred forests up for sale to the highest bidder. Such rape has been far too frequent with assets from America's natural treasures.

Thank you for the documentation of this revised plan and for allowing us to read and respond. Wishing you the best in opportunities and funding for the work to follow as the Forest Service begins the implementation of this plan.

Yours most truly,

John Peel

Cheryl Cramer

Kareol Woodlands, LLC

Wallowa, OR