

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of the New BLM Land)	
Management Plans for O&C and)	RESOLUTION NO. 135-2007
Related Lands in Western Oregon)	

WHEREAS, The BLM is revising its land management plans for western Oregon, updating plans for an area that comprises about 10 percent of the area covered by the Northwest Forest Plan, and

WHEREAS, most of the planning area is governed by the O&C Act of 1937, which requires the BLM to manage for permanent forest production to provide economic benefit to local communities, while protecting watersheds, regulating streamflows, and providing recreation facilities. The draft plan analyzes the potential impacts of three management alternatives, and

WHEREAS, the BLM's Alternative 2 would produce about 727 million board feet of harvest annually, in perpetuity. Receipts from sales of this timber would replace about 94 percent of the revenue that will be lost when the current Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act safety net payments terminate in the near future, and

WHEREAS, the O&C lands were once in private ownership, but were taken back by the federal government, and thus removed from county tax rolls. To compensate, fifty percent of timber receipts go directly to the 18 western Oregon Counties, to be used as discretionary funds for services such as libraries, law enforcement, corrections, public health services, and recreation. O&C revenues provide a substantial and irreplaceable part of the discretionary budget for this County, and

WHEREAS, the BLM's proposed plans are the result of the most detailed and comprehensive analysis ever completed on federal lands in western Oregon. The analysis is supported by the latest biological studies, updated resource data, and new modeling tools, and

WHEREAS, the BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have ensured that the BLM's draft plans, the Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan, and the draft Critical Habitat Rule are consistent. At least 46 percent of the forested BLM lands would be reserved to perpetuate forests with old growth characteristics, and the remaining 54 percent would provide substantial additional acreage of mature and structurally complex forest, while being managed with care to insure no more is harvested than is replaced by new growth. Alternative 2 meets all the requirements of the Endangered Species Act to protect and help recover all listed species of fish and wildlife, as well as complying with all other environmental laws such as the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act, and protecting recreational opportunities and facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved that Columbia County supports Alternative 2 in the BLM's draft plans, and urges the BLM to select Alternative 2 as the BLM's final plan, and to proceed as expeditiously as possible in the completion and implementation of its plan revisions. A copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Association of O&C Counties for submission to the BLM.

ADOPTED this 5th day of September, 2007.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 

Rita Bernhard, Chair

By: 

Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: 

Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner