



November 27, 2013

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Data and information request related to the Oregon and California Land Grant Act of 2013

Dear Senator Wyden:

I am writing on behalf of the American Forest Resource Council (AFRC) requesting more information following yesterday's release of your "Oregon and California Land Grant Act of 2013." As you know, AFRC is a regional trade association advocating for the responsible, sustainable management of our private and public forests. Our membership has a huge stake in the management of Oregon's BLM lands, employing tens of thousands of Oregon workers in family wage jobs across the state. In fact, our membership includes all 10 of the largest purchasers of BLM timber sales.

As we begin a comprehensive review of your O&C legislation we have several data requests that we would like to respectfully make of you. In fairness, the data requested is a necessity before anyone -- including AFRC, the media, counties, or the public -- can develop an informed opinion about your legislation and the likely effects on Western Oregon's rural, forested communities and the O&C Counties.

As you may recall, the Governor's Task Force process and the Governor's O&C Lands Report released early this year contained a plethora of data on harvest levels, county revenues, habitat and other important metrics for various land management alternatives. This information is critically important and we look forward to receiving the same level of data that supports your plan so the various stakeholders can provide you the feedback you've requested.

For now all we have is an estimate provided by your office that the legislation will produce 300-350 million board feet (mmbf) of timber from the BLM lands for the next 10 years. Historically, all public timber supply numbers are expressed in terms of long-term sustained yield. This volume estimate is significantly higher than the 205 mmbf annual sustained yield harvest volume the Governor's Task Force modeled for a similar "ecological forestry" management approach, so we are eager to review the analysis prepared for your office. We also lack information about the likely geographical distribution of timber harvests throughout Western Oregon. As you know, the BLM lands span virtually the entire length of Western Oregon and a gross volume figure

doesn't reflect how your proposal may impact these lands and communities differently. As a result, we respectfully request a district-by-district breakdown of the likely harvest levels under your proposal.

We also lack sufficient information on the amount of land that will actually be available for timber management under your proposal. At this point, all we have is a map lacking detail and statements that the legislation would separate the land into roughly equal parts of "forest management emphasis areas" and "conservation emphasis areas." What we don't know is how many acres in the management areas will actually be available for harvest under the forest management prescriptions and requirements mandated in your legislation. As you know, there are significant acreages of "old-growth," critical habitat, riparian area, and other designations within the management emphasis areas that will be off-limits to timber harvests under the legislation. Therefore, we respectfully request an outline of the land allocation acreages included in your legislation, including the acreage within the forest management emphasis areas that would actually be available for timber management.

The information supplied by your office also lacks detail on the timber harvest revenues and county payments likely under your proposal. Governor Kitzhaber's O&C Task Force analysis of a similar ecological forestry management approach estimated county payments of \$27 million annually. As you know, this information will be critically important to the O&C counties, including those on the verge of bankruptcy. We would appreciate receiving the analysis you have done on what revenues would be generated under your legislation.

We understand that BLM performed the analysis of timber outputs that you released yesterday, likely with the same baseline data used by the Governor's O&C Task Force. This should allow for the type of extensive analysis of your proposal that was provided in the Governor's O&C Lands Report. We respectfully request that you instruct the BLM to release all the data, electronic maps, and other information it used to perform its analysis of your proposal. If the BLM data does not have this information, including any electronic maps of the proposed Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River designations, we would appreciate receiving that information from your office.

We will likely have more specific requests in the coming days, but below is a summary of our request:

- A district-by-district breakout of the long-term sustained yield timber harvest levels under your legislation as modeled by the BLM. This information is critical to understanding any regional variations in the legislation's likely impacts.
- An outline of the land allocation acreages included in your legislation, including the acreage within the forest management emphasis areas that would actually be available for timber management after set-aside areas are removed.
- The analysis you have done on what timber and county revenues would be generated under your legislation.

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- Direction to your office and to the BLM to provide the public with all the data, electronic maps, and assumptions needed to perform a detailed analysis of your proposal. This would include electronic maps containing land use designations and the proposed Wilderness and Wild & Scenic areas.

We look forward to working with you and the entire Oregon Delegation to find a balanced, comprehensive solution to restore the health of Oregon's O&C forests and rural communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Partin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom Partin, President

American Forest Resource Council

cc: Oregon Congressional Delegation
Governor John Kitzhaber
Jerome Perez, OR/WA BLM
Association of O&C Counties