

BIRCH Kevin R

From: Josh Laughlin [jlaughlin@cascwild.org]
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2007 5:12 PM
To: BIRCH Kevin R
Cc: Doug Heiken; ralph@crag.org
Subject: feedback for fed forests advisory committee

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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February 23, 2007

Kevin Birch:

Please forward the following recommendations to the Board's Federal Forests Advisory Committee. I understand you are talking comment up until today.

1) Restoration of degraded federal forests in Oregon should be the primary management objective. Decades of clearcutting and roading have left a myriad of opportunities to employ a workforce in the woods through plantation thinning for diversity, culvert removal and replacement for aquatic enhancement, road obliteration and decommissioning to deal with the backlog of harmful roads, and in-stream habitat restoration to benefit listed species.

2) Remaining mature and old-growth forests should be left alone to recover imperiled fish and wildlife species, to safeguard drinking water sources, to provide recreational opportunities and to leave a legacy for future generations.

3) Logging should not be the driver of the Board of Forestry's "Forestry Program in Oregon" when approaching federal forestland issues. Restoration, which can include carefully executed thinning in degraded areas, should.

4) Biomass utilization on public lands should benefit local economies and improve the health of fire suppressed forests, and not should be driven by the timber corporations looking to feed their mills.

5) Tourists come to Oregon for the icons it offers: our waterfalls, old-growth forests, and wild rivers. Keeping older forests intact is the best long-term strategy for a vibrant outdoor-related economy.

Touists don't come here and spend money to look at clearcuts and roads in our national forests.

6) Post fire logging is the most harmful management tool after a fire event. Post-fire environments should be left alone. Wildfire is a natural dynamic events, just like rain, wind and snow. The state should intervene and revoke Smokey Bear's federal operating license.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thanks.

Josh Laughlin
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