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Steve Hobbs, Chair, Members of The Federal Forestland Advisory Committee and Facilitator
Robert Fisher:

Rural Oregon and Federal Forestlands

We continue to be greatly concerned about the declining economic situation in Rural Oregon communities and its depressing effort on our public citizens.

Direction was given by the 2005 Oregon Legislative body and by our Governor to develop a federal forest management plan to use federal timber harvest to support and sustain Rural County governments and Rural employment. The Federal Forestland Advisory Committee (FFAC) has set an ambitious meeting schedule to accomplish this work but little gain has been made to date to execute a federal forest management plan.

Much of the federal forestland is in an overstocked condition which raises the danger of fire, disease, and insects; there are many contradictory federal forest management statues that must be revised; Rural Counties are losing infrastructure and employment; and so on. Since 57% of Oregon's forestlands are federally owned, there is a huge impact on our State. This can be a positive or negative impact, depending on what actions this Committee takes.

Experts conservatively estimate timber supply on Federal Forestlands in Oregon is 477 billion board feet. Considering the value of this timber at \$400 per thousand board feet, the total value of this Federal resource is staggering. This is a huge timber asset. We can supply further details if desired.

In order to begin with a very small harvest and to provide some immediate financial aide to Rural Oregon Counties, we suggest harvesting 10% of the annual net *growth* on these lands. Then, incrementally increase the total harvest by 5 to 10% per year as the infrastructure will allow. This plan would preserve current federal timber reserves while providing revitalization of the environmental, financial and social well-being of Rural Oregon and County governments.

Thank you.

Wayne Giesy

Dick Posekany
Forest Consultant
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