



= *Life in Balance*

RESTORING ECOSYSTEMS SUSTAINING COMMUNITIES

Oregon Smoke Management Review Committee  
2600 State Street  
Salem, Oregon 97310

February 16, 2018

To the Oregon Smoke Management Review Committee:

On behalf of Lomakatsi Restoration Project we submit the following recommendations for consideration in the Oregon Smoke Management Plan review. Lomakatsi is a non-profit organization that develops and implements forest, woodland, meadow and watershed restoration programs and projects across thousands of acres throughout Oregon and northern California. Lomakatsi's mission is to "restore ecosystems and the sustainability of communities, cultures and economies." For over twenty years, Lomakatsi has implemented ecological restoration projects across thousands of acres. We have pioneered precedent setting collaborative strategies that are nationally recognized, involving federal, state, county and city agencies, Native American Tribes, industry, as well as private landowners, other NGO's and local communities.

Our experience has not only taught us that prescribed fire treatments are essential to our ability to protect, restore, and enhance the myriad ecological, economic, and social benefits that our forests, woodlands and meadows provide, but that we are falling further and further behind in the implementation of this critical tool. This is particularly true as we attempt to use prescribed fire in and around communities, Smoke Sensitive Receptor Areas, and other highly valued portions of our landscapes to mitigate wildfire risk to people, firefighters, homes and private property, and the environment itself.

We believe that a holistic, balanced solution to the problem of wildfire smoke is available and urge the Committee and its sponsoring organizations – the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality – to carefully consider the following proposed revisions to the Smoke Management Plan:

- Incorporate language that reflects differences between dry and wet forests and their respective fire regimes
- Align Oregon's smoke policy with EPA's empirically-based 24-hour air quality standard
- Prioritize high-risk/high-value treatment areas with greater flexibility and opportunity to implement prescribed fire
- Develop and implement a public health strategy to protect people from short-duration prescribed fire smoke

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We believe that these changes will allow us to address the rising threat of wildfire while also better caring for those people most affected by smoke. Without these changes, we will continue to fall further behind, placing the people and wildlands of Oregon at increasing risk to extreme wildfires. This is not the future we want, and we look forward to changes to Oregon's Smoke Management Plan that better reflect the holistic inter-relationship between resilient forests and healthy communities.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shane Jimerfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "J".

Shane Jimerfield  
Program Director