



File Code: 1950

Date: December 15, 2003

Dear Interested Citizen:

I am seeking your comments on a proposal to amend the Winema National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as amended by the Northwest Forest Plan, or simply, "the Forest Plan", by changing land allocations on approximately 5,000 acres of the Klamath Ranger District.

The area immediately around and including Lake of the Woods is currently allocated and managed as Late Successional Reserve (LSR) to provide quality old-growth forest habitats. As a result of natural processes in the area, trees are dying and the habitat for old growth dependent species is minimally functional. There are no spotted owls occupying the area. Existing recreational residences and uses that are consistent with Forest Plan direction complicate management activities that could enhance or restore LSR conditions.

The proposed action would change the Forest Plan allocation of approximately 2,000 acres adjacent to and including Lake of the Woods from LSR to Administratively Withdrawn - Developed Recreation. At the same time, the proposal would change the land allocation of similar acreage elsewhere on the Klamath Ranger District from Matrix, where most timber harvest activity takes place, to LSR. The three areas being considered are Cold Springs (2,846 acres), Burton Butte (1,806 acres), and Little Aspen (2,231 acres). See the enclosed map for locations of the areas being considered. I am proposing to change only one area to LSR, thus maintaining the total acreage allocated to Late Successional Reserve about the same as currently. We would in essence be exchanging land allocations. If these land use allocations are not changed, the quality of LSR habitat near Lake of the Woods will continue to deteriorate, while opportunities to manage other more suitable habitat as LSR will diminish.

This proposal would result in a non-significant Forest Plan amendment and would not involve any ground-disturbing activities. I expect to have an Environmental Assessment available for public review next summer. I encourage you to submit written comments to District Ranger Kent Russell, Klamath Ranger District, 1936 California Avenue, Klamath Falls, OR 97601. If you have questions, feel free to call him at 541-885-3406, or email knrussell@fs.fed.us. Please submit your comments by **January 23, 2004**.

Sincerely,

/s/ Karen Shimamoto
KAREN SHIMAMOTO
Forest Supervisor

