

1917 Jackson Ave., La Grande, OR 97850

T 541-962-2000 F 541-962-2035

**Boise Wood Products**

January 13, 2015



**Boise Cascade**

Payette National Forest  
Attn: Keith Lannom, Forest Supervisor  
800 W. Lakeside Avenue  
McCall, ID 83638

RE: Middle Fork Weiser River Landscape Restoration Project

Dear Keith Lannom,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the upcoming Middle Fork Weiser River Landscape Project on behalf of Boise Cascade. Boise Cascade manufactures engineered wood products, plywood, lumber, and particleboard and distributes a broad line of building materials, including wood products manufactured by the company's wood products division. The company is privately owned and headquartered in Boise, ID, and operates mills that count on wood produced from the National Forests.

Boise Cascade fully supports implementing these authorities as soon as possible. As a member of the Payette Forest Coalition, we also support the comments submitted by that organization. I am in general agreement with the project's purpose and need and offer the following comments:

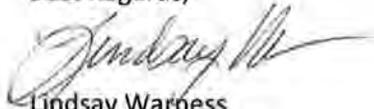
- I am concerned that timber production is not called out specifically in the purpose of the project, this is a valuable commodity and can help the Forest Service to pay for non-revenue generating activities. Producing timber should be a purpose of this project.
- I am in full support of the identified commercial harvest; however, I would like to know why the other 31,520 acres are not being treated commercially?
- Please consider an alternative that maximizes the economic benefit of the project through additional commercial harvest.
- I support treatments in Riparian Conservation Areas because these areas are often the most sensitive and leaving excess fuel loading in them does not make sense.
- Please ensure that the commercial thinning is economically viable. This may mean taking some larger valuable trees to offset the non-commercially viable trees and more expensive logging systems.
- I support reducing the fuel loadings as well as reducing the stocking levels to increase habitat for white headed woodpeckers and the animals associated with more open forests.
- Landscape heterogeneity is incredibly important for both the wildlife and overall vegetation resilience in the mixed moist conifer landscape. A critical feature of wildlife habitat in eastern Washington and Oregon is the multi-scale (landscape and stand) diversity and juxtaposition of patch types of differing composition and structure (Perry et al. 2011). While somewhat counterintuitive, it is important to note that a landscape can be highly fragmented or patchy, as is commonly the case in landscapes with mixed-severity fire regimes, and still be highly connected for a variety of ecological processes. (Stine et al 2014).
- I'm also concerned with the amount of prescribed fire in the project area. I suggest that the Forest Service look at alternative ways to reduce fire danger due to multiple restrictions on burning and the large backlog of prescribed fire acreage on the Payette National Forest.
- What is the return interval for activities on this project? I'd suggest that the Forest Service be extremely aggressive in the treatment in order to ensure that this area will remain in the appropriate condition for longer and not need additional treatment in the near future.
- Roads are important for recreation, future management needs, fire suppression and livestock management. Please ensure that only the highest priority roads are decommissioned while

barricading lower priority roads to protect future management needs. I recommend the least expensive, least intensive and least intrusive option be implemented in this area in order to maximize investment.

- Please be sure to include the beneficial effects that the implementation of this project will have. Many times I read NEPA documents and they do not emphasize the benefits of the project, the main focus is the detrimental effects.

Overall, I believe this project is a very good project that balances the needs of the wildlife, forest resiliency and the economic needs of the local communities. I look forward to seeing the outcomes.

Best Regards,



Lindsay Warness  
Forest Policy Liaison  
Boise Cascade Company  
1917 Jackson Avenue  
La Grande, OR 97850

Citations:

Perry, D.A.; Hessburg, P.F.; Skinner, C.N.; Spies, T.A.; Stephens, S.L.; Taylor, A.H.; Franklin, J.F.; McComb, B.; Riegel, G. 2011. The ecology of mixed severity fire regimes in Washington, Oregon, and Northern California. *Forest Ecology and Management*. 262: 703-717.

Stine et al 2014. The Ecology and Management of Moist Mixed-Conifer Forests in Eastern Oregon and Washington: a Synthesis of the Relevant Biophysical Science and Implications for Future Land Management. USDA, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, General Technical Report, PNW-GTR-897.