



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE
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IN REPLY REFER TO

1792(117)
Scattered Apples FMP
G6335(DH:bhk)

AUG 28 2002

Dear Interested Citizen:

In March 1999 the Grants Pass Resource Area completed an environmental assessment (EA) for the Scattered Apples Forest Management Project and distributed it for public review and comment. Subsequent to its release we held a variety of meetings and site visits to better discuss what we were proposing and why we thought it was appropriate management for the land included in the project area.

One thing was clear throughout this period and that is that there is a great deal of interest in the management of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in the Williams Valley. It was also clear that there is a wide diversity of views and beliefs about how these lands should be managed, even within the parameters of our Resource Management Plan. I greatly appreciate all of the time that many of you spent in helping us with the design and development of the Scattered Apples project.

While it has taken longer than we had anticipated, we have reached the point where I have been able to make some decisions regarding the proposals for some of the project area. For the remainder of the project area, the area where Port-Orford cedar occurs, I have deferred my decisions regarding the proposals due to ongoing litigation about Port-Orford cedar root disease control measures. I do not know when this will be resolved. It seems critical that we move ahead with the decisions and with implementation of the many proposals on the rest of the area. My discussions with many members of the community has indicated that there is a great deal of support to do so.

The decisions that I have made are documented in the enclosed Decision Record. As I have noted in the Decision Record, I believe that the decisions we have reached reflect a very good balance between the many and often competing resource needs, potentials and management objectives. I also believe that our effort to design the project in a comprehensive way that addresses the diversity of uses and objectives has resulted in a sound course of action for the BLM lands within the project area. The Decision Record parallels the organization of the proposed action in the EA. If you no longer have a copy of the EA, it is located on our website at www.or.blm.gov/medford under planning documents.

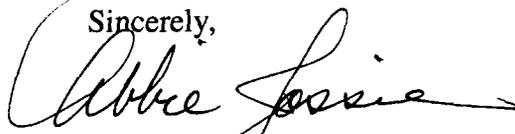
While I know that the decisions I have made for Scattered Apples will probably not satisfy everyone in the community, I do look forward to your support and participation as we move forward and implement them. The severe fires that we have been experiencing this summer have made all of us aware of how important it is that we actively address the fuel hazards and the vigor of our forest stands, particularly in the rural interface areas such as the Williams Valley.

President Bush's visit to our community last week certainly further underscored the importance of these issues and that there is a national attention and emphasis being paid to them. After reading the President's August 22, 2002, Healthy Forests Initiative, I believe that the Scattered Apples project is fully consistent with the Initiative's goals. It includes a great deal of work that

focuses on reducing wild fire hazard, helping to protect the community, promoting healthy forest ecosystems and providing a framework for further local collaboration in accomplishing these goals.

We do appreciate your interest and involvement in this project and thank you for your continuing interest in the resource management activities of the BLM and the Grants Pass Resource Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Abbie Jossie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Abbie Jossie
Field Manager
Grants Pass Resource Area

Enclosure (as stated)