

May 27, 2004



Howard Hunter
Bureau of Land Management
Medford District Office
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, OR 97504

Re: Submission of WWF supported study plans to the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Howard:

Attached are the study plans you requested for the WWF supported grazing studies underway in the monument. As you share these plans with the Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) assembled by the BLM for assisting BLM in evaluating its grazing study in the monument, please include this letter by way of project introduction. Our science team would welcome the opportunity to make a presentation to BLM and/or the PAC. Also, please note that we are in the process of drafting an aquatics/riparian study plan for Jenny Creek in collaboration with Southern Oregon University, however, this study plan is not yet final. As for the remainder (5 taxa studies), all studies are in the final year (year 2 or 3 depending on taxa) of field work and we anticipate manuscripts will go out for peer review as early as this fall/winter.

The attached studies were set up by WWF to provide the BLM with peer-reviewed science on determining whether grazing is compatible with protecting the monument's objects of interest and with the monument's natural ecosystem dynamics as stated in the proclamation. Two of these studies involve dissertations (Masters and Ph.D.) at major universities (Oregon State University, Univ. of California) whereby the students are being supervised by Ph.D. members of the faculty. Furthermore, each one of these studies involves oversight from highly respected scientists with years of experience in natural resource management and ecology, including expertise in the monument. Finally, these studies will go through an exhaustive peer-review process, not just limited to the Oregon State University panel assembled by BLM (which we welcome input from), but graduate committees and external peer reviewers that will determine if the manuscripts are suitable for publication in scientific journals.

Providing science-based tools in support of conservation is WWF's approach to all the projects we undertake. We believe the science team assembled here will provide scientifically valid results regarding grazing and the objects of interest in the monument. It is our hope that BLM will treat these studies as complementary to their own in addressing the monument's proclamation.

Sincerely,

Dominick A. DellaSala, Ph.D.