

May 20, 2003 John Day, Oregon - Public Meeting to receive comments concerning Little Canyon Mountain Fuel Reduction Project EA.

The following five people had a group discussion about the EA and the alternatives described within. **Eugene Emory, Grizz Adams, Merle Brown, Grace K. Williams, Tad Houpt.** Notes of that discussion were taken by Ryan Franklin and Dan Tippy. These notes will be considered as comments from the individuals involved in the discussion.

Issue: What type and to what extent fuel treatments should occur in the area?

Merle Brown – You need to cut the big trees and leave the red fir for mining timbers. The remaining fir trees should be trimmed up 7 to 8 feet. The upper areas have a disease problem that should be treated. On last falls treatment area he marked red fir trees to leave but BLM cut them anyway. Elk and deer use mahogany and bitterbrush. We need to care for wildlife and leave brush for them. Frequent under-burns will kill all the future trees. He likes to see some slash left. Current piles are too close to live trees, and will kill them when they're burnt. The forest is for raising trees, so cut them.

Grizz Adams – Some of the fir trees are dying on his claim. He likes Alternative F more than the others. Juniper trees take water from the other trees. Make sure to take the dead trees and material from the ground.

Eugene Emory - You need to log whatever is dead, clean that up first. Big trees are ok to take. Big trees will help pay for the whole project. He doesn't think there will money for re-entry in the future so make a plan that allows for annual maintenance. Dead trees don not provide any value. He likes parts of Alternative D and F. It will cost too much money if the entire treatment is by helicopter.

Tad Houpt – They have done treatment on their property within the project area and still more trees are dying, including fir trees. You need to go after dead and dying trees first. It will take a couple of years because more trees will die. You should be selective and take defective trees next. You want to leave the healthiest trees. You should be site specific by stands based on species and age class. Bugs are killing the biggest trees. Once you take the dead and dying there won't be many choices left. Need to clean up slash. Helicopter logged areas burn more intense than tractor logged areas. You need very large landings for helicopter operation. Consider using private lands. Do as much as you can with ground based operations. Be careful with logging operations round mines. Don't drop trees on tunnels. Don't make a mess for the miners or damage mine operations.

Grace K. Williams – use common sense in the layout of the logging. She will give copy of "Big Timber" article to Bob Vidourek. It discusses some of the same issues from years ago.

Issue: Whether to reroute a portion of the existing main road, whether to improve the existing main road and whether to close any roads within the project area.

Merle Brown – There are no roads that should be closed (except one). They all go to mines. Don't close any roads except in the lower pit. There may be a specific road or two that could be closed. Sediment is not coming from roads. It's coming from Quartz Gulch. NMFS just want roads away from streams. Miners are fair weather operators. Miners used to walk up the hill. Sediment is only a problem during the heaviest rains from the upper ditch. Normally it's not a problem. There's not enough water in the creek for runoff.

Eugene Emory – Drain dips may be needed in the main road but not culverts. The locals said that they have never seen the creek run dirty. People use the road all year, including people on 4 wheelers. An upgrade would help people going to the trailhead. Don't close roads, those used by miners. There are 103 claims on LCM. More than what the EA says.

Tad Houpt – Drain dips may be needed in the main road but not culverts. The road should only be good enough to get the logs out. Deal with a new surface on the main road only when it's needed. Sediment comes from the old burn. He doesn't want the road relocation any closer to their property. It costs a fortune to relocate and build a new road and then it takes up areas where people could mine. Some rockings and drain dips may help resolve the problem of ruts channeling sediment.

Issue: Whether to close the "pit" area to large vehicles capable of depositing garbage in the area.

Merle Brown – Close the lower end.

Grizz Adams – He thinks we need to control the lower end of the road into the pit. There is a good location where a hole could be dug to close the road.

Tad Houpt – The roads at the top of the pit can be closed.

Issue: Whether to install a livestock management fence along Little Pine Creek.

Eugene Emory – It would be ok.

Tad Houpt - It would be ok.