



COPY

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

March 9, 2006

Linda Goodman, Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service, Pacific NW Region
PO Box 3623
Portland, OR 97208-3623


Dear Linda,

I greatly appreciate the advance notice that your office provided me regarding Forest Service plans to pursue salvage logging within the Biscuit Fire complex. I am keenly interested in any such activity that would take place in Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs).

In a letter dated April 1, 2005, I requested that the Forest Service delay logging in IRAs until a decision had been reached by the federal district court in the *Wilderness Society et al v. USFS* consolidated cases. Although the case has now been dismissed by the federal district court, it is my understanding that the trial court's Order will be appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. I would again request that the Forest Service delay logging in the IRAs until a final decision has been rendered in this matter. I continue to have grave concerns over the prospects of commercial harvest in the Biscuit IRAs.

The 2005 Rule was accompanied with an assurance that these unique areas would continue to be protected; consistent with the safeguards formerly afforded them while each governor prepared a petition. In addition to challenging the adoption of the 2005 Rule, I am simultaneously developing a petition for Oregon, which is not due until November 2006. Therefore, I again ask the Forest Service to defer logging in the Biscuit roadless areas while I pursue my objective of permanently protecting the 1.9 million acres of roadless areas in Oregon.

I hope that the Forest Service honors my request in this matter. As I have stated before, I support actively managing federal lands to achieve the broadest range of economic, environmental and social values possible, as long as we continue to preserve the unique function that roadless and wilderness areas now serve. I look forward to working with you to develop a management program for Oregon's national forests that does just that, taking into account the need for different approaches to lands classified as late successional reserve, matrix, roadless and wilderness.

Sincerely,

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

TRK:mc;jh:jb