



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Oregon State Office  
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<http://www.blm.gov/or>

November 12, 2014

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

In your August 27, 2014, letter, you requested technical assistance from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to undertake a modeling effort of your proposed O&C Land Grant legislation to estimate the timber harvest potential in board feet per year. Oregon BLM staff worked with assistance from Oregon State University Professor Norm Johnson on an analysis to determine the potential timber harvest output, in board feet per year, based on the parameters outlined in the revised version of your bill.

Based on our calculations, we estimate that a sustained annual timber sale harvest of approximately 310 to 320 million board feet (MMBF) per year could occur for the first five decades on lands administered by the BLM. These calculations are different from previous efforts for the following important reasons: (a) the moist forestry emphasis included variable retention harvest in stands less than 90 years old, (b) the moist conservation area was improved by recent data on stand management history that was not available in prior calculations, and (c) the dry forestry emphasis area was recalculated with changed assumptions regarding access and feasibility.

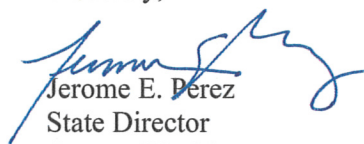
A separate analysis utilizing data provided by tribal representatives on the proposed conveyance lands for tribal interests determined that between 8.9 and 15.7 MMBF/year for five decades could result from timber harvesting on those lands. In addition, the Coquille Tribe provided information that, in general, they are harvesting approximately 4.6 MMBF from their lands annually, thus making the total contribution from tribal interests from 13.5 to 20.3 MMBF/year.

Based on these analyses, it is estimated that between 323.5 and 340.3 MMBF/year for the next five decades could be produced under the terms outlined in your proposed legislation from BLM-administered and tribal lands. In addition, lands conveyed from the U.S. Forest Service to the BLM under the land rationalization concept contained in your bill could provide additional timber volume on an annual basis. My understanding is that the U.S. Forest Service has provided you with an estimate of the potential timber (up to 70 MMBF/year) that could be harvested in the future from these proposed conveyance lands.

This information is the result of a purely technical analysis to assist you in your discussions on your proposed legislation. It does not represent a formal position on your proposed legislation by the agency or the Department of the Interior. Other agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, and the Environmental Protection Agency) were not engaged in the analysis of your bill. Site-specific factors and input from these agencies could move the estimates up or down.

Thank you for your continued interest in the future of the O&C lands of western Oregon.

Sincerely,

  
Jerome E. Perez  
State Director  
Oregon/Washington