



Jessica Vega Pederson
Multnomah County Chair

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 600
Portland, Oregon 97214
P: (503) 988-5090
E: mult.chair@multco.us

March 20, 2026

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
1220 SW 3rd Ave, Portland OR 97204

Re: Northwestern and Coastal Oregon and Southwestern Oregon Resource Management Plan Revision; Project Number DOI-BLM-ORWA-0000-2026-0001-RMP-EIS

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to oppose the proposed Northwestern and Coastal Oregon and Southwestern Oregon Resource Management Plan Revision. This proposal ignores years of consensus-building by affected communities, and threatens to harm people, the environment, and our state's resilience.

The proposed revision would eliminate protections for wildlife and old-growth forests to facilitate "maximum" logging capacity across nearly 2 million acres of public lands, including Bureau of Land Management administered areas in Multnomah County. Contrary to the assertions in the purpose and need statement of the RMP revision, the agency has previously acknowledged that aggressive logging practices *increase* fire risk.¹ Addressing the impacts of unprecedented and destructive wildfires is a shared priority, but not one that is achieved through the reckless degradation of our public, natural spaces.

The proposed revision also relies on a shallow and selective assessment of economic impact, focusing solely on the potential benefits in one sector. This ignores significant risks of negative impacts in other critical segments of Multnomah County and Oregon's economy. Outdoor recreation is a cornerstone of our local economy. This includes iconic brands like Columbia Sportswear and KEEN Footwear, as well as iconic landscapes like Mt. Hood, the Columbia River Gorge, and the Rogue River Valley. This proposal ignores decades of science, conservation, and

¹ United States, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, South River Field Office. *Finding of No Significant Impact for 42 Divide Forest Management Plan Environmental Assessment: DOI-BLM-ORWA-R050-2025-0002-EA*. 2025.

economic development in favor of artificial logging targets, threatening what has become a pillar of our economy. A 2024 *Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Oregon*² found that in 2022, outdoor recreation in Oregon supported \$16 billion in spending at businesses throughout the state, including \$3.4 billion in trip-related spending. Multnomah County serves as a gateway to the state – including Portland International Airport – and is home to one of the most visited natural features in Oregon, Multnomah Falls. This proposal would negatively impact a vital economic engine in the state, and demands further evaluation to understand and quantify the full economic risk, in order to balance those harms against any potential economic benefits.

Multnomah County residents value these landscapes for reasons beyond their economic contributions. Residents and visitors alike value these lands for opportunities to hunt, gather foods like berries and mushrooms, hike, fish, and simply enjoy time in the great outdoors. Tribal governments, which have stewarded these lands since time immemorial, retain rights to gather food in usual and accustomed places, including the lands in question. This proposal threatens their natural and cultural heritage.

This proposal is a reckless attempt to degrade our public lands for ideological reasons, and it's not the way we do things in Oregon. Our state continues to maintain a robust forest products industry and invest in new technologies to harvest and utilize forest products responsibly. Recently, the world's tallest cross-laminated timber (CLT) high-rise apartment building opened in Portland, and the renovated Portland International Airport features a stunning CLT roof sourced from sustainably managed Oregon forests. This proposal threatens to unravel the progress we have made in balancing competing interests and charting a path forward in service of both our communities and ecosystems. I urge you to withdraw this proposal and return with a commitment to partnership in pursuing meaningful, balanced solutions for our landscapes.

Sincerely,



Jessica Vega Pederson
Multnomah County Chair

² Mackey, E., Cousins, K., 2024. *Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Oregon: 2022 Update*. Earth Economics. Tacoma, WA.