

November 25, 2002 P.O. Box 65
Silver Lake, -Or 97638

United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Silver Lake Ranger District 65600 Hwy. 31
P.O. Box 12~
Silver Lake, Or. 97638

Attn.: **Carolyn A. Wisdom** District Ranger

Subject:

File Code: 1950 Toolbox Fire Recovery Project

Dear Ranger Wisdom:

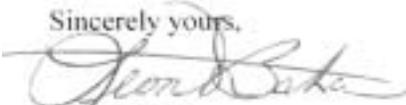
Thank you for allowing me to comment on the proposed recovery project noted above. Although I have not seen this area since the burn, I am somewhat familiar with it, having worked with the Forest Service, and traveled through it.

I am impressed that so much work has been done to gather information and arrive at a plan of action so quickly. I have heard comments doubting quick action and salvaging of the timber. My compliments to your staff. I am in agreement with the proposed project as I understand it. I feel it important to harvest as much of the merchantable timber as quickly as possible, in an efficient manner being sensitive to the natural environment. There is no doubt that fire has always been part of the ecology of this forest, and after it, animals thrived along with the forest itself. Though fire may be intensive now because of the buildup of fuels, still God has designed systems to replenish themselves, and this one will also.

The questions I have are small. I wonder if personal use fire wood permits could be issues to remove burnt stands of Lodge pole by local folks? Also, if horse logging would be an option in critical areas such as riparian zones?

One editorial note. On page 5, paragraph two, sentence one, 'require' is printed twice.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment. ..I hope all goes well with the planning portion, so that the timber can be removed before it loses all value.

Sincerely yours,

Leon Baker
Jn 3:30