

Record of Phone Call or Visit

<i>Person Calling/Visiting:</i> Leon Baker	<i>Organization:</i>
<i>Person Called/Visited:</i> Rick Elston	<i>Organization:</i>
<i>Date of Call or Visit:</i> 12/6/02	<i>Time:</i> 9 am

Summary of Conversation: (approx.15-20 minutes) Leon had submitted a letter in response to scoping. The text of his letter included support for salvage and a statement of pleasure that we were getting on it in a timely manner. He mentioned in his letter that he had heard (local) talk to the contrary. This conversation further clarified what “timely” meant. Specifically, he wondered how long our planning process completed. I informed him it would be roughly a year. I perceived that this was longer than he envisioned - he asked me why? And at the same time he expressed a concern about the loss of value associated with blue stain. He indicated he was asking these questions both for his own information and so that he could respond to others in the local community who initiated discussion with him on the subject. I explained the reasons, chiefly the large size of the area, and the large data gathering need, which is nearly complete, and of the very high standard of legal sufficiency that we need to aim to if we are in fact to be able to implement the project. We discussed the courtroom experiences in both Oregon and California regarding fire recovery/salvage. He said he had heard that other Forests were nearing completion of their planning. I indicated I wasn’t closely tracking other Forests but that there were 3 other post fire projects being planned on the Fremont-Winema, all of which would use a somewhat simpler EA to present their analysis. We discussed the other 3 salvage NEPA processes that are occurring on the Fremont-Winema and how/why those differ from Toolbox.

He asked if the Forest Service and specifically the Ranger District supported the idea of salvage of the burned material. I responded “yes” and noted that the specifics of the proposed action reflect an internal proposal from the Ranger District/Forest. I indicated that the eventual decision on what was implemented would be made by the Forest Supervisor, but that Ranger Wisdom would be intimately involved with that decision, and is in fact very close to the planning process. In that vein, I encouraged either himself or others he talked with to contact either myself or the Ranger at any time.

Follow-up Needed:

This response from Leon stresses a concern for the recovery of value prior to deterioration to a **greater degree** than his initial letter. That concern needs to be incorporated and noted in our issue development at the 12/17-18 IDT meetings. In addition, his several references to “talking with other local people” point out the potential need for a public meeting(s)

<i>Recorded By:</i> Rick Elston	<i>Title:</i> DEC
<i>Date and Time Recorded:</i> 12/6/02 11:30 am	