

SOCIAL ASSESSMENT:  
INTERESTS AND ISSUES OF  
ILLINOIS VALLEY RESIDENTS REGARDING  
PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

By  
Kevin Preister  
Josephine County Stewardship Group

With Local Field Team

Markus Freeman  
Suzanne Zook  
Kenny Houck  
Wayne Fitzpatrick  
Susan Chapp  
David Steiner  
Roberta Lee

With Support From  
The National Forest Foundation  
Title III, Secure Rural Schools Act, 2008

Submitted to:  
The U.S. Forest Service  
The Josephine County Stewardship Group

October 26, 2011



SOCIAL ASSESSMENT:  
INTERESTS AND ISSUES OF ILLINOIS VALLEY RESIDENTS REGARDING  
PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter One: Introduction	1
Background	1
Community Engagement	2
Organization of This Report	5
Acronyms Used	5
Chapter Two: Cultural Features of Social Life	7
Chapter Three: Community Vision(s) for Public Land Management	13
Background	13
Vision Statement of Public Land Management of Illinois Valley Residents	13
A Traditional Perspective	20
A Progressive Perspective	21
Chapter Four: Community Themes and Citizen Issues Regarding Public Land Management	23
Community Themes about Public Land Management	23
Citizen Issues about Public Land Management	25
Recreation	26
Off Road Vehicle Use	29
Eco-Tourism	31
Forest Management	36
Forestry-related Employment	42
Dumping and Trash	50
Mining	51
Law Enforcement	53
Chapter Five: The Prospects for Community-Based Collaboration on Public Land Management in the Illinois Valley	54
On Agency Relations	54
On Community Relations	57
On Integrating Citizen Issues and Agency Concerns	57
Next Steps	57
Figure One: Illinois Valley Landscape Assessment Area	3

SOCIAL ASSESSMENT:  
INTERESTS AND ISSUES OF ILLINOIS VALLEY RESIDENTS REGARDING  
PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

CHAPTER ONE:  
INTRODUCTION

**Background**

In this document, people speak in their own words. People in the Illinois Valley live close to the land, and they are active on the land in work and play. They have stayed in the “IV” over generations and they have accommodated newer residents over the decades who have been attracted to the beauty and the quality of the natural environment.

The Josephine County Stewardship Group (JCSG) was established in 2004 by local citizens and agency partners in an effort to integrate community fire safety planning with the development of forest restoration and stewardship projects to protect forests and community interface areas from unwanted fire. The group has worked to promote the use of stewardship contracting and the development of local businesses to utilize byproducts of restoration activities. It has participated in land use planning efforts, such as the Butcher Knife Slate project, which successfully incorporated community recommendations into the Environmental Assessment and the upcoming federal contract.

In 2011, JCSG decided to undertake a Landscape Assessment in the Illinois Valley. Based on the success of pilots in other areas of southern Oregon and the U.S. West, there is emerging evidence that the land management agencies, the environmental community, industry and citizens can reach agreement on moving forward with federal land management projects that are oriented to forest health, avoid legal challenge, and result in a flow of forest products off the land. The term, “Restoration Forestry” is being used to describe these new types of forest projects that focus on thinning, reduction of fuel load, brush removal, some canopy opening, small diameter tree harvest, and removal of some merchantable timber.

JCSG is encouraged that a larger-scale effort—a landscape scale effort—may be feasible in the Illinois Valley. If the Landscape Assessment can foster sufficient agreement through a community-based effort, it will be in a position to offer guidance to the federal agencies on the type and location of forest projects, and move management approaches beyond the pilot scale to 50,000 or 100,000 acres. If we are successful, market development to optimize individual and family enterprises, as well as jobs, will follow. Better forest health and better community health result from the same actions.

Our partners in this effort include:

U.S. Forest Service  
Bureau of Land Management  
Southwest Oregon Resource Conservation and Development District

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Oregon Department of Forestry  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Josephine County  
The Governor’s Regional Economic Development Team  
Forestry Action Committee  
Applegate Partnership  
Siskiyou Project  
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild)  
The Nature Conservancy  
Southern Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative  
Sustainable Northwest  
Josephine and Jackson County Fire Plan Committees  
Rough and Ready Lumber Company  
Forest Energy Group  
A number of logging companies and small forestry contractors  
Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc. (SOREDI)  
The Job Council  
Illinois Valley Business Entrepreneurial Center

The development of a Landscape Assessment has two major components, community engagement and data collection. Another team of the JCSG is collecting ecological data from relevant agencies, suitable for display in a GIS (geographic information system) format, with the product being a series of maps depicting current ecological conditions in the Illinois Valley. The GIS layers will include relevant social and economic information as possible as well. These maps can serve as reference points in community and agency discussions in the coming months in identifying geographic areas within which agreement can be reached about “best practices” and geographic priorities. Figure One below shows the geographic area under consideration for the Illinois Valley Landscape Assessment.

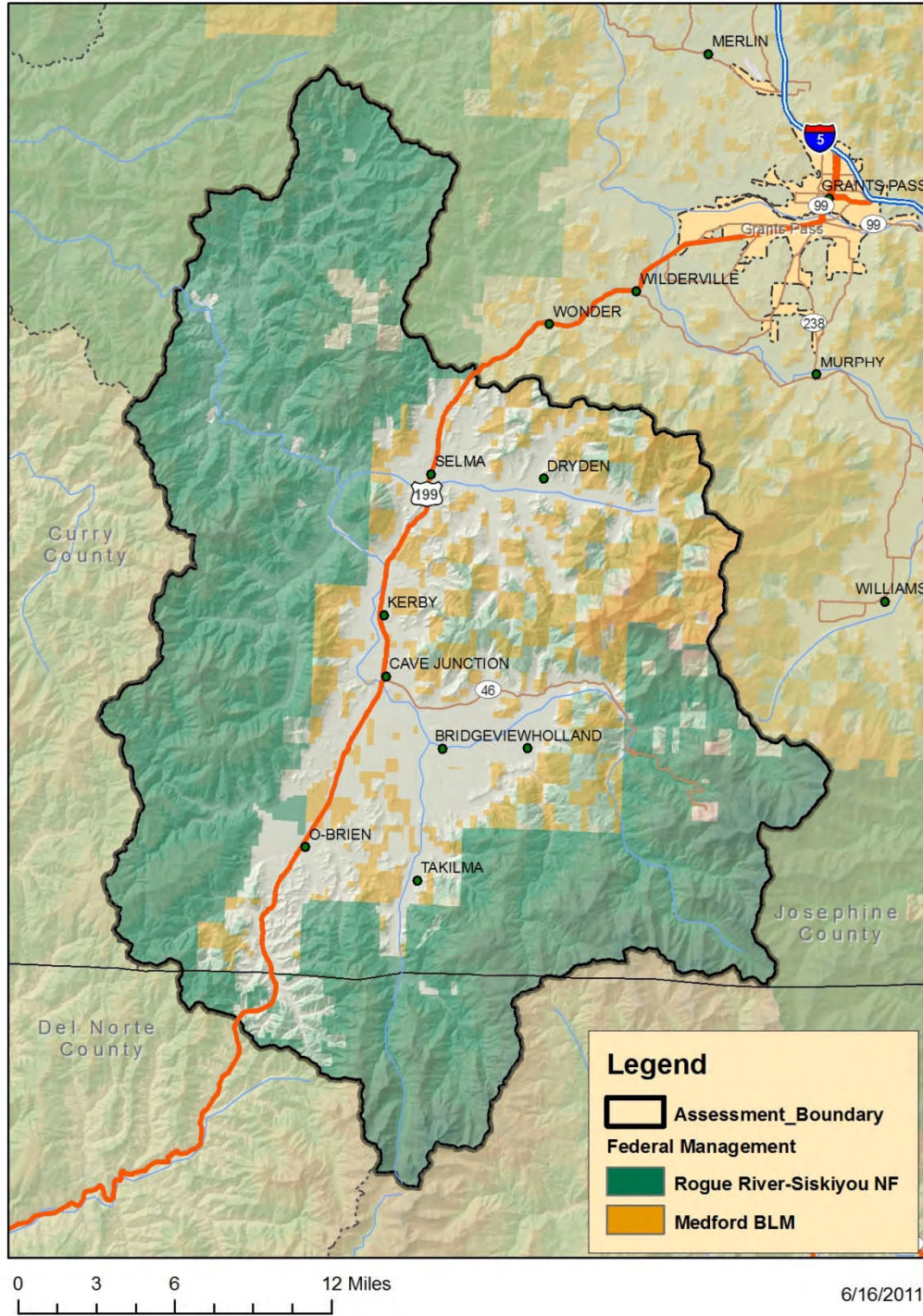
## **Community Engagement**

JCSG reasoned that success of our effort hinged on working through and with community residents, so that citizens participate in discussions about forest health projects, understand the changes being considered, and see how their interests and issues are driving the process. In addition, the management concerns of the land management agencies and other partners are identified in order to seek an integration of formal and informal interests. For this reason, we made use of a time-tested community fieldwork process, the Discovery Process<sup>1</sup>, to “enter the routines” of local communities in the Illinois Valley and interact with residents in settings that are comfortable for them. Community fieldworkers attended public events, mingled in public settings, and engaged in one-on-one interviews at people’s homes, always asking, “Who else should I talk with about these issues?” so that a broad cross-section of the community was contacted. The intent was to identify the issues of citizens across all geographic areas of the Illinois Valley and across all interest areas.

---

<sup>1</sup> Preister, Kevin and James A. Kent, “Social Ecology: A New Pathway to Watershed Restoration.” In *Watershed Restoration: Principles and Practices*, by Jack E. Williams, Michael P. Dombeck and Christopher A. Wood, Editors. Bethesda, Md.: The American Fisheries Society, 1997.

Figure One  
 Illinois Valley  
 Landscape Assessment Area



The team talked with the following kinds of people:

- Old time loggers
- Small-scale forestry contractors
- Logging contractors
- Mill workers
- Takilma people
- Sunstar people
- Business people
- Off road recreationists
- Mountain bikers and hikers
- Horse people
- Fire District
- Miners
- Agriculturalists, including vintners
- Professional people
- Educators
- Artists
- Wildcrafters/foragers
- Industry representatives
- Elected officials
- Newcomers
- Oldtimers
- Youth
- Retired people
- Homeless people

In addition, the team talked with agencies and organizations with interest or responsibility with public lands or the Illinois Valley, including:

- Several BLM/Forest Service staff
- Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District
- Southwest Oregon Resource Conservation and Development District
- Illinois Valley Community Development Organization
- IV Business Entrepreneurial Center
- Siskiyou Field Institute
- Siskiyou Project
- Lomakatsi Restoration Project
- Forestry Action Committee
- National Park Service
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Natural Resource and Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- City Council of Cave Junction
- Freemasons, Belt Lodge #18

Members of the team talked with over 265 people, primarily between May and October, 2011. Most conversations lasted well over an hour, although shorter, more casual conversations occurred as well. The perspectives of these individuals are shared in this report. The topics discussed with local residents and organizational representatives alike were the following:

1. How long have you lived in this area?
2. What has your involvement been with public lands?
3. Do you have a favorite place or destination in southwest Oregon?

4. What involvement or personal history do your family members have in the Illinois Valley?
5. What specific concerns do you have about current management of public lands?
6. If you were king/queen for the day, what would you do to improve conditions on public lands?
7. Are there priorities in what or where things should be managed?
8. What is your vision for what public lands should look like in 30 years?
9. How do you want to be involved in the Landscape Assessment process?
10. Do you have any ideas for job creation utilizing the resources of our local forests?
11. Is there anyone else you think I should talk with about these questions?

The principle value of this document is the relationships it represents. As our local team has gotten to know people, their issues, and the opportunities they see, there are prospects for bringing people together to create community-based direction in public land management which will be useful to the land management agencies. Because we wanted people to speak for themselves, there are ample quotes throughout the document, organized according to logical categories. Virtually everyone we spoke with has something to say in these pages. Each of these statements is linked with the person who made them and we hope in this way that we can mobilize people to engage fully in the Landscape Assessment process so they get the future they want.

## **Organization of This Report**

Section Two discusses the cultural features of social life, as shown in the stories residents told of living in the Illinois Valley. Section Three outlines a vision for public land management as shown by the most frequent areas of “common ground” expressed by residents. These are “first principles” which can guide subsequent discussions, and included are minority opinions on either side of the mainstream. Section Four summarizes the community themes and citizen issues of residents related to public land management which cover a variety of subjects. Section Five addresses the prospects for creating community-based guidelines for public land projects.

## **Acronyms Used**

ARRA	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
ATV	All-Terrain Vehicles
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
FS	Forest Service
JCSG	Josephine County Stewardship Group



NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NPS	National Park Services
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
OHV	Off Highway Vehicles
ORV	Off Road Vehicles
SFI	Siskiyou Field Institute
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation Service
USFS	United States Forest Services
WOPR	Western Oregon Plan Revision, BLM

## CHAPTER TWO: CULTURAL FEATURES OF SOCIAL LIFE

Culture is made up of the enduring beliefs, traditions, practices and stories that people share to survive and thrive in a local environment. Culture is embodied in stories people tell of the land and their community and leads to a particular world view that is shared among residents and reinforced in daily social life. Culture is revealed by the patterns and common elements that people use to tell their stories, as shown in the statements below.

### **1. People are rooted to place. They have strong ties to family and to the land. The place and the people are one.**

“My father’s ashes are...” put in special places.

“My children were born here.”

“I raised my girls here.”

“My daughters were born and raised here.”

“I raised two kids and eight grandchildren here in the valley.”

“My family has been born here and some have died here. Some worked in the woods and some grew weed in the woods.”

“We visited my relatives up here from 1980 on and realized this would be a great place to raise a family.”

“My grandfather bought a large ranch in the Holland area in the 1920s where my dad grew up. We lived in California for a while but as an adult, I just had to move back. These are my roots, the small town, the trees, mountains and rivers.”

“I love the people and I just love the area.”

“This place is like an oasis in the desert.”

“I raised my family here. My oldest son was home-birthed right on our homestead.”

“My family has been here in the IV since the 1850s. I’m a 5<sup>th</sup> generation resident. Some of my family probably fought with local Indians.”

Residents were asked their favorite places in the Illinois Valley. Many replied that they would not share that information because they didn’t want a million people to go there. Many others were frank, and our polling showed favorite areas of Bolan Lake, Babyfoot Lake, Lake Selmac, and the Grayback area. However, there was no overall pattern after these choices and in fact the dominant

pattern was one of great diversity of choices which is exactly why people love the Illinois Valley. Among the very many places people listed as favorite are:

TJ Howell Botanical Drive	Sam Brown Campground
Graves Creek	Bigelow Lakes
Pomeroy Dam	Onion Creek lookout
Oregon Caves	Onion Mountain
Happy Camp and the road to it	Rough and Ready Creek
The swinging bridge area	Forks Loop Trail off Westside Road
The green bridge	Knopki Creek Falls
Briggs Creek and Oak Flats	East Fork of the Illinois River
Pine Flats	Tennessee Pass
Lower Rogue Wild and Scenic	Kalmiopsis
Forks State Park	Sourdough area
Upper Deer Creek	Red Buttes area
Seats Dam swimming hole	Sucker Creek
Little Grayback	Althouse Creek
Page Mountain and the Sno-Park	

## **2. Newer residents are enthusiastic about the beauty and quality of the natural environment, which is a major reason for settlement in the area.**

“I just fell in love with the Illinois Valley.”

“There is no pollution here, the rivers are clean, the air is clean.”

“I always wanted to live in the woods and in the country.”

“I’ve been here 42 years. I was traveling with a friend when the car broke down in O'Brien. I liked the area because it was so beautiful and wild. I was on the 1st wave of counterculture coming here. My son grew up here and now lives in Grants Pass.”

“I moved here because of the abundance and quality of public lands here.”

“We originally come in 1999 for a friend's wedding and thought the area was beautiful. We fell in love with the first property we looked at.”

“I love the whole valley. No matter what direction you head in, it’s special.”

“When we first visited, we were put off by the appearance of the town, but after a few visits we really liked the people and the beauty of the area.”

## **3. Illinois Valley people are active outdoors.**

The Illinois Valley is an outdoor society. There were many, many comments about how easy it is to get to fishing or hunting areas, and the various recreation spots and these topics are talked about

routinely in local conversations. Ask people how they use public lands, and it is a very long answer that invariably involves some or all these activities:

- Hunting
- Fishing
- Rafting
- Camping
- Mining
- Hiking
- Swimming
- Mushroom gathering
- Christmas Trees
- Quad riding
- Motorcycle riding
- Mountain biking
- Horseback riding
- Rockhounding
- Snowboarding
- Exploring back country roads
- Gold panning

“I have lived here since I was a little kid. So I’ve spent time camping with my family and scouts. Also swimming in the river almost every day in the summer. And we cut a lot of wood for heating our home off public lands. Oh, sure, we did some deer hunting. But I don’t hunt anymore.”

“I like to hike. I go out the front door almost every day and hike around home. There are a lot of footpaths, not established trails. I just like to observe nature. I do some gathering like ferns and Indian Soap Root, and collect rocks.”

#### **4. Illinois Valley residents show a respect for and active use of the land. Stewardship of the land is a dominant ethic.**

Residents are well aware that environmental abuse occurs in their landscape but practitioners of abuse are not respected and sometimes even ostracized.

“I planted trees for several years. Worked on the Watershed Council. You have to give back to the community.”

“My family does hiking, camping, hunting and fishing. Also, my family has planted trees here the Illinois Valley through the Forestry Action Committee.”

“I personally clean up at the rope swing at Grayback Campground.”

“Public lands are the backdrop of our lives. I visit them every day. I live next to them. I harvest my firewood every season, and my work depends on the availability of lumber.”

“My water comes from public water. My power (hydro-electric) land is surrounded on 3 sides. The headwaters of my stream are on public land. I have planted trees and cut trails on public lands. I have gone to jail for issues over public land. I cherish public land.”

“I’m a former member of the Josephine County Water Policy Review Board. I was part of the Salmon/Trout Advisory Committee. As a private citizen, I’ve always tried to be active and involved in issues around water and land use. As an educator, I’m an advocate for water conservation and quality.”

“I’ve been clearing tic brush and planting trees for over 15 years with some fuels reduction.”

“Most of my work now is with private landowners. All of them are willing to go for forest health although I tell them it will cost them or at least not generate revenue. They are OK with that.”

“We have worked for years maintaining the Sam Brown Campground and also the Kerby Museum.”

“I was involved with planting trees in the Illinois Valley through Rough and Ready [Lumber Company]. Must have been 60 or 80 employees who volunteered to plant trees.”

“I volunteered to seed native grasses with the Forest Service after the Biscuit Fire in the Briggs Creek area. I pick up litter whenever possible when hiking or swimming.”

**5. Forestry work is part of the Illinois Valley tradition that people appreciate and want to extend into the future.** A sampling of quotes is below.

“One of my daughters was a firefighter for Grayback Forestry. Because of that involvement she decided to study Forestry at Oregon State University.”

“I built logging roads on our public lands for timber harvest. I worked for Cabex Lumber Mill at Kerby and we milled up some beautiful timber off of BLM and Forest Service land. Fir, sugar pine, white fir, incense cedar, red cedar. Also some beautiful white oak for flooring.”

“I was a bear hunting guide for about 8 years before the ban on dogs went in. Me and my brother-in-law worked for Kabeck Logging. Also Hammer and Gibney Logging.”

“I have worked on many wildland forest fires on both federal and state lands. I worked 36 days straight, 14 hours a day on the Biscuit Fire. I worked decommissioning Forest Service roads. I pulled the Forest Service law enforcement officer out of the middle of the Illinois River when he got stuck in his Dodge Durango!”

“I have a son and granddaughter that both work for the Forest Service.”

“I used to work on the 20-man hotshot crew fighting wildfires on public lands with helicopters. Then I went into silviculture working to replant clear cuts. I’ve also worked with Lomakatsi as an inspector/foreman on local fuels reduction for the Hope Mountain Stewardship Project.”

“Before I was retired, I worked for the Forest Service as a fire fighter and as a fire prevention officer”

“After I graduated from Illinois Valley High School, I worked with the Forest Service fighting fires. I was part of the hot shot crews in Cave Junction in the 1970s.”

“My mother was head cook at the smokejumper base. My dad worked in the sawmills. My brother was a trail worker in the Kalmiopsis.”

## **6. Making a living is not easy.**

It seems that it has always been hard work making a living in the Illinois River. From the mining and logging history, to farming, and up to the current day, it takes a deliberate effort to survive. Many residents consciously accept the trade-off of doing with less in exchange for living in a beautiful setting. Newcomers, for example, reported this thinking in deciding whether or not to re-locate to the Illinois Valley. Rather than reliance on 40-hour jobs, people rely on multiple strategies for making a living—a little of this, a little of that.

“I’ve been a crew boss and fire fighter, bartender, landscaper.”

“We had very little money when my children were growing up. We lived on a mining claim and we worked hard just to survive.”

“Kids come in dirty and hungry.” [School volunteer]

“So many of my friends and neighbors are low income. We are all struggling.”

## **7. The Illinois Valley is a working community and mostly a working-class community.**

People talk with pride and a bit of defiance in saying that they are workers. They remain suspicious of dressed up people who don’t seem to get their hands dirty. Instead, they work with their hands, they fix things, they invent things, they are active on the land.

“I grew up on a mining claim with my family in the Kalmiopsis. We were very self-sufficient living on the land. We had generators and bath houses with propane hot water. We had a great big garden with chickens and hogs.”

“My father has been a building contractor here in the valley for 35 years. He has built many fine custom homes for local families.”

## **8. Stories of conflicts are part of the Illinois Valley stereotype but they belie the deeper history of cooperation and respect for neighbors.**

If you ask people in the region outside of the Illinois Valley what it is like there, eyebrows go up. People start to mumble or cover their mouth, and if they do say something, they invariably refer to the entrance of hippies into the community during the “back to the land” movement of the 1970s which prompted a pretty severe backlash from the traditional community. Many stories were heard about hippies being refused service in the stores, guns going off in the night in certain locations, and other acts of hostility.

The differences in perspectives in these communities manifested in a variety of ways, particularly in the “timber wars” of the 1990s, the Biscuit Fire and its aftermath, various proposals for industrial scale mining, and a state proposal a few years ago to locate a prison in the valley.

Even so, there are increasing developments which unify people across different interests and allow for a vibrant community. The health clinic which began in Takilma, and which was so important in

the lives (and births!) of so many, moved to Cave Junction, upgraded, and now serves the broad community. In addition, the growth of small scale agricultural producers has resulted in a farmers' market and serves to unify the old and new. A number of community events, such as the farm and food festival in September, offer public testimony to a community that works more than it doesn't.

“In the 1960's, the Cave Junction Labor Day used to be a family-oriented mining and timber exhibition with competitions reflecting those pursuits. It slowly changed into the Lion's Labor Day Festival with carnival booths, bingo, softball tournament, and go-karts. The focus changed naturally over the years.”

“My family has a long history of volunteer work in our area such as the wayside parks and trail development, as well as the Kerby historic museum.”

Key words that come up repeatedly in local conversations regarding the current status of public land management are:

- Appreciation
- Respect
- Fairness
- Sustainability
- Compromise
- Balance

“I totally respect my dad and the work he did as a logger, but now I realize there has to be some balance.”

“It's not just either the environment or the jobs. I realize people need jobs but I also see the need to protect our public lands. The word balance comes to mind.”

“I'd like to cast a spell on the people to influence their appreciation of what we have at our disposal.”

## CHAPTER THREE: COMMUNITY VISION(S) FOR PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

### Background

“I want my children to see some old growth with herds of elk and salmon spawning in clean streams.”

“I have stayed here because the rivers are clean and clear. The land, flora, fauna is inviting, botanically diverse and the people here are connected to it and care for the land.”

Residents of the Illinois Valley feel strongly about the land and about public land. They interact with public land frequently, many have made their living from forest resources, and various recreation activities are part of everyday routines for the majority of residents. In the next Section, the specific issues and suggestions people have about forest health and forest management activities are described in detail. This section outlines a vision of public land management based on frequent statements made by residents in the interviews. While some people will undoubtedly disagree with this composite statement, it represents the mainstream in the sense that the comments were heard frequently and shared across the social diversity and along the entire political spectrum.

The intent of the Vision Statement is to hold a mirror up to the community of what its members have said. The statement represents another beginning point of dialogue in the Illinois Valley—there have been many points of dialogue through the years. During the coming months, the Landscape Assessment process will test for community-based agreement on the statements below in order to move forward with an active forest management program.

### Vision Statement of Public Land Management of Illinois Valley Residents

The principles of community-based public land management, based strictly on conversations with Illinois Valley residents and explored more fully in subsequent sections, are these:

1. Public land management should be science-based and fact-based.
2. Public land management should be oriented to ecological integrity and diversity.
3. Economics are secondary to ecological integrity.
4. Clearcuts are to be avoided.
5. Manage for the continued presence of old growth trees.
6. Balance is the watchword for level of harvest. “Take a little, leave a little.”
7. Manage for meadows and hardwoods.
8. Forest health and the need to reduce the severity of fire fosters an approach of Restoration Forestry, defined as a focus on thinning, reduction of fuel load, brush removal, some canopy opening, small diameter tree harvest, and some commercial timber.
9. Replanting must keep pace with removal of forest resources.
10. Reduce burning if possible.



11. No new roads and maintain existing roads better.
12. Monitoring to ensure accountability to all interested people is part of project design.
13. Put local people to work.
14. Foster market development for biomass utilization and value-added production to support individual and family enterprises and jobs.
15. Public land should be available for a wide variety of public uses.
16. Outdoor recreation opportunities should be supported, especially eco-tourism approaches that fosters extensive, dispersed and low impact uses of the land while supporting local businesses and jobs.

## **1. Public land management should be science-based and fact-based.**

Water quality, wildlife and fish habitat matter very much to people and they are unwilling to sacrifice these values for timber production.

“Treat the land as a whole and consider all factors.”

“All the aspects of the forest affect each other so they need to look at the big picture.”

“Sustainability has to be a core principle of all management practice.”

“My main concern is that the land should be managed using the best science available.”

## **2. Public land management should be oriented to ecological integrity and diversity.**

“They should focus on fish habitat and watershed protection. When I moved here the population was 570 people and hunting was good.”

“Water quality definitely matters.”

“Water quality and watershed management are paramount.”

“Green forests and crystal clear water.”

“Air quality and water quality are top priorities.”

“Endangered plant species have to be preserved. My friend is very knowledgeable about plants and teaches me all the time. One time we made a sticky ball out of a plant for a mosquito repellent.”

“Compared to the over-harvesting of the past, they’re doing better now. Of course, there’s not much big wood left. I think they’re trying to be more conscientious about sustainable ecosystem management compared to the past pillaging.”

“The white nose syndrome is killing millions of bats in the U.S. and Canada with many species facing imminent extinction. A single bat can eat 4500 insects a night including mosquitos.”

“The land has to come first.”

“Protect those habitats that are rare like old growth forests, serpentine fens, intact and undammed watersheds, and of course, riparian corridors.”

“We should manage the biological diversity that is here.”

“I want the forests to be managed in a way that allows wild crafting and sustains natural plant communities and the forest biodiversity because if the forest isn't diverse, we lose plant species and end up with mono-cultures.”

“Abundance of biological diversity. That is what we have and what we want.”

“The fish are a very important resource that needs better management and hatcheries.”

### **3. Economics are secondary to ecological integrity.**

Although some people disagree with this statement, it came out loud and clear across the whole spectrum of people in the IV.

“Make decisions for the land, not the wallet.”

“Land should be managed properly for the betterment of the environment over economics. If both can be mutually beneficial that's fine, but it is not okay for money to be made at the expense of the environment.”

“Forest health is our driver when we do thinning and logging.”

“I don't think the forest should be primarily looked at as a revenue source. We need to repair the damage that has already been done.”

“Water conservation is very important and should be protected. We humans can live without a few logs but we can't live without water.”

“Somebody should make sure the river is protected and kept clean. Protection of fish and wildlife should be first.”

“Whatever forestry activity we imagine, protection of wildlife and making sure there are adequate wildlife corridors is number one.”

“Any logging done should be done with the health of the forest as the prime consideration, not with money as the main motivator. Greed has gotten us into trouble all over this country.”

#### **4. Clearcuts are to be avoided**

This issue is widespread throughout the Valley. However, some residents have said that under some circumstances, clear cuts serve an ecological advantage. The drier forests of southern Oregon are characterized by small “patches” of diverse habitats with varying wetness. Some forest treatment methods call for a “skip and gap” approach to mimic the patches of the forest, allowing some small clearcuts of ¼ to ½ acre.

“Clear cutting, then planting rows of trees for replacement, is not good. It does not provide for habitat. Thinning or less drastic means should be used.” [Common]

“Stop all clear cutting because it has created the mono-culture and poor health of the forest. It has been left a mess and many of the sub-species are gone.”

“There are not many owners who want clear cuts. The ones that do are usually motivated by needing money. I don’t take those jobs. I log sustainably and for the health of the forest.”

“I’m very concerned about clear-cutting. No more clear-cutting!”

“In our area, cuts and thinnings do not grow back quickly. Two clear cuts on Hope Mountain and up the East Fork of the Illinois River have barely changed in 30 years.”

#### **5. Manage for the continued presence of old growth trees.**

“Stay out of old growth.” [Common]

#### **6. Balance is the watchword for level of harvest. “Take a little, leave a little.”**

People appreciate the difficulty in finding a balance between conservation and production. Most folks understand that to do nothing is not good for forest health. Also, there is a fair amount of agreement, even within older logger circles, that overcutting did occur in the past and had to be corrected.

“There has to be a happy medium. Take a little, leave a little.”

“I am not opposed to all logging.” [Common]

“I am not against logging. I’m against logging the old way.”

“I support controlled burns and selective cutting as a way to reduce fire risk.”

“There is room for both environmental protection and timber.”

“I’d like to see clean air, clean water and modern sustainable timber harvests without damage to fisheries and aquatic ecosystems.”

“It’s not all sacred. It grows like crazy.”

## **7. Manage for meadows and hardwoods.**

“The highest priority for me is meadows. Two percent of Siskiyou meadows are lost each year to encroachment.”

“Repair should be done by thinning. If I had my way, it would be replanted with dogwoods, madrone, and oaks which help to retain water for a healthy watershed and provide food for animals.”

“Public land projects are not favoring hardwoods.”

“You have to leave a variety of species. Big Leaf Maple, dogwoods. Leave the Doug fir if there are only a few. You want to increase the diversity of the stand for greater stability.”

## **8. Forest health and the need to reduce the severity of fire fosters an approach of Restoration Forestry, defined as a focus on thinning, reduction of fuel load, brush removal, some canopy opening, small diameter tree harvest, and some commercial timber.**

The current trend in forest projects toward small diameter cutting, thinning, and brush removal is supported by a broad range of the community. The notion of including commercial timber in such projects is not as broadly accepted. For some, an approach to forest restoration that includes commercial timber opens the gates once more to over exploitation and greed. For others, some commercial harvest is seen as the only practical way to finance the active and landscape-scale approach that is felt necessary.

“A small diameter strategy is okay, with thinning and fuels reduction, but you have to take some big trees to fund the work.”

“Look at the thinning they’re doing on Hayes Hill. It sure looks nice.”

“Commercial is OK to a point. It depends on the stand.”

“Stay out of the courts. It is so expensive.”

## **9. Replanting must keep pace with removal of forest resources.**

“We should be continually planting as long as we are harvesting.”

“All those slash piles are not always removed. So is that less of a fire risk?”

## **10. Reduce burning if possible.**

“Prescribed burns affect air quality. Some days you see a haze that people just hate. You can’t see the mountains. Find alternative uses for slash material.”

“There is too much burning. It’s a waste.”

“Don’t burn debris in forest piles. Go for pellet making.”

### **11. No new roads and maintain existing roads better.**

There is strong agreement that new roads should not be undertaken except in special circumstances. In addition, as the next section makes clear, issues about the need for road maintenance are very widespread.

“They shouldn’t be cutting any new roads in.”

“Fix the roads so you can get in there.”

“I support timber harvest but they should not be cutting any new roads.”

### **12. Monitoring to ensure accountability to all interested people is part of project design.**

“Instead of BLM being in charge of oversight of logging operations, a third party should monitor logging, especially in sensitive areas.”

“People need to be involved in the prescription. We should be able to monitor the results.”

“Who gets on the ground? We need ‘citizen reps’ to look at those stands. They get a place at the table. Decisions have to reflect a citizen perspective.”

### **13. Put local people to work.**

The need for jobs is the single most widespread issue in the Illinois Valley.

“Local people should be given job preferences.”

“They should have to hire local people only not just first.”

“Putting people to work should be our number one goal.”

“There is nothing that would decrease the bitterness like developing forest jobs for local people. It is becoming so one sided.”

“Employment should be a very high priority.”

### **14. Foster market development for biomass utilization and value-added production to support individual and family enterprises and jobs.**

As Restoration Forestry projects become more common, they are generating volumes of material that have traditionally not been economical to touch—brush, limbs, and small diameter trees. Partly driven by the interest in alternative energy sources, many areas around the country are experimenting with facilities which can use biomass material. Biomass One, for instance, in White City, burns biomass products to create electricity and collects material from logging operations and construction sites. Rough and Ready Lumber Company has a small facility known as a “cogen” plant, or a cogeneration plant, that offers both heat and electricity to support the mill operation.

Other approaches include the gasification of the material to produce a synthetic natural gas which breaks down over distance but is useful for local purposes. With the presence of nearby industrial forestlands, Shelton, Washington is constructing a 55 MW plant for electrical generation using biomass material, enough to power 40,000 homes.

In the Illinois Valley, there is strong interest in biomass utilization but poor information as the next section shows in more detail. However, people are clear that value-added efforts should be supported as much as possible.

“I have heard some positive things about biomass, but I really don't know a lot about it.”

“Biomass produces electricity for 17 cents/kw; Bonneville produces for 3 cents/kw. The economics are just not there yet.”

“Let's see what we can do to use the products as well as we can, use the poles.”

“I do not want wood sent to other countries for manufacturing and then sent back to us.”

“There is a lot of anger about whole log exports.”

“We need to invest in value-added forest products such as furniture, flooring. Keep the wood here. Make the products here and ship them. Home Depot and other building supplies should not be bringing in wood products from other countries.”

“Biofuels are excellent. Rough and Ready are to be applauded for the cogen plant.”

#### **15. Public land should be available for a wide variety of public uses.**

This is a key value for local residents who often prefaced their comments with statements supporting “multi-use” and the rights of all to have access to public lands.

“Multiple use! There's room for everyone.”

#### **16. Outdoor recreation opportunities should be supported, especially eco-tourism approaches that fosters extensive, dispersed and low impact uses of the land while supporting local businesses and jobs.**

“Try to boost tourism. Eco-tourism and all kinds of tourism. Promote any and all local artists like the burl place.”

“Eco-tourism and recreation opportunities draw people to the area where they use motels, bed and breakfasts, restaurants, grocery stores—all our local shops and galleries. The Long Beach, California police department, for instance, comes up every year for a re-union camp out. Also we have many alumni reunions and group vacations from all over the country like the Iron Horse Rodeo. Also we have blue grass festivals. All these activities create and sustain local jobs and economies. I'd like to see more emphasis on local agriculture and local farmers' markets.”

## **A Traditional Perspective on a Vision for Public Land Management**

Traditional people are those who have made their living in mining, logging and agricultural and their families are often several generations in the Illinois Valley. These folks express a stewardship ethic but one that is based on active use of the land—“You take care of the land and it takes care of you.”

“I’ve always considered myself a patron or steward of land, someone who accesses and utilizes the land and doesn’t abuse but respects the land. I’ve done everything from hunting and fishing to mining and mushroom picking and including commercial cutting.”

### Forestry Project Subsidies

“With the government in a tailspin, subsidies are wrong. Projects should pay for themselves.”

“Lomakatsi is not a feasible model for the long term.”

“Subsidies are OK if they are temporary. The goal should be self-sustaining economic activity.”

### Forest Management

“The ideal canopy is about 40%”

“You can’t save old growth and it is a waste to leave it there. That is the best saw timber. They go after reprod [cut over lands that have grown back] and take our future trees. Thinning is overrated. Ideally, the canopy cover stays the same but just grows higher with the trees. Forces out the underbrush.”

“We need a more practical approach to threatened and endangered species. Some extinctions are natural. One size does not fit all. We need a multi-species approach.”

“The forests could be managed better for more timber production.”

“Material from the Biscuit Fire should have been used. It all went to waste. Not one thing was used and no replanting.”

“We should have logged the Biscuit Fire within the first year. Those trees were wasted.”

“Burned over areas should be logged and replanted, especially the Biscuit Fire area.”

### On Those Who Feel Differently

“The Takilma bunch and the Williams bunch are hippies. They are dead set against cutting.”

“I appreciate what the so-called leftist environmentalists are doing in their protests. If it weren’t for the so-called hippie radicals, no one would be protecting the old growth.”

“Environmentalists fouled us up with personal agendas. They have infiltrated the agencies. I could take you on tours of clearcuts and select cut sites, and they have come back just fine. But the follow up has been lax, no thinning.”

“There's a general feeling amongst ranchers, miners, loggers—people who use the resources—that environmentalists use grants monies to put a stop to or lock up and harass people who are trying to work at their livelihood. They think sometimes grant monies are abused on the side of protecting the environment at the expense of the people who use the land and resources to live.”

“Because environmentalists used the court system to tie up logging in the 1970s and 80s, the O and C monies have dried up and now the county has no revenue to support the Sheriff's office, the pools, the libraries, etc., all the services supported by the county. It has affected the livelihood of many people and has caused a lot of resentment.”

“Environmentalists are socialists and believe in communal answers. If I have two cows, they feel entitled to one. They always put ringers in public meetings to stir the pot and fight everything you say.”

“Old growth is dying and cannot be ‘saved.’ Canopy of about 35% is about right. Environmentalists lie about the facts.”

## **A Progressive Perspective on a Vision for Public Land Management**

Progressive people are the “back to the land-ers”, environmentalists, and newcomers who make up the green movement in the Illinois Valley. Some people call them “hippies” but that word is most often used in a negative way by others to describe them. These folks began moving into the Illinois Valley in the 1970s and they have created a thriving community centered in Takilma but existing throughout the Valley. They promote sustainable living, knowing it’s a lofty goal, but one they are deliberate in fostering. Evidence of this is the growth of organic and small-scale farming, a resurgent interest in the community in gardening and canning, and the proliferation of arts and crafts as expressions of these values.

### Forest Management

“The lands are well tended and park-like. The land can be used to sustainably harvest wild craft materials, medicines, edibles by the community and bring jobs to the community and distribute surpluses to the community for free. Perhaps a percentage of the money could be given back to the community and county for educational purposes. Diverse forest systems and old growth are supported in the present and for the future. The concept of permaculture practices is being held in mind.”



“Midsized trees are cut but not thinned so heavily that soil life is jeopardized and natural vegetation does not have to struggle to survive. Also no chemicals whatsoever are to be used on our public lands and no monocrop replantivity so as to maintain forest diversity. Agencies use observation and permaculture concepts to help the land maintain and sustain itself, all the while employing low cost methods.”

“Preserve dominant trees that contribute to the canopy.”

“Qualified logging operations are using selective methods to remove diseased trees and leaving healthy trees to promote healthful forest. We learn how to treat our forest so that it is healthy, but still can be utilized. I would like to see our lumber stay in our state. Community interest outweighs corporate interest. Our mills market their goods as sustainably harvested wood to increase its value and tax credits offered for using Oregon wood in Oregon.”

“All the old growth over 125 years old should be preserved forever. Maintain roadless areas. Have third party monitoring of logging operations. Manage for diversified 3 layer canopies. There is natural fire resistance with canopied forest. Get more recreation trails, especially single track for bikes.”

“Keep all roadless areas roadless. No new road building at all. No old growth logging (late succession logging). Fire/fuell reduction. Restoration forestry is needed on clear cuts and meadows. Non-commercial restoration forestry. Cut it but don’t sell it if diameter limit would be smaller. Expand wilderness and national monument areas.”

There are three main ways in which the traditional and progressive perspectives differ:

1. Reliance on subsidy. Traditional people want a “stand alone” industry, capable of creating a profit without the need for a government subsidy. Progressive people do not seem troubled by the current reliance on subsidy for forest projects, believing it is appropriate since the best trees have been taken.
2. Post-fire treatment approaches. Local residents still debate the Biscuit Fire and its aftermath and emotions still run high about the outcomes. For traditional people, the lack of timber harvest after the fire was a tragic waste of a good resource. For progressive people, the damage to the land is much greater with logging activity after a fire.
3. What and how much to take. Traditional people would take more trees out of the forest, open the canopy more and take trees of good quality. Progressive people want to keep the canopy more or less intact, thin the small diameter and overstocked areas, and leave the older trees.

## CHAPTER FOUR: COMMUNITY THEMES AND CITIZEN ISSUES REGARDING PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

### **Community Themes about Public Land Management**

Community themes are perceptions or values about the way things are that are shared widely in the community and reinforced in daily social life. When themes are shared in the gathering places in the community, heads nod in appreciation and the listener might add a story of her own that contributes to the perception expressed. Themes in and of themselves are not actionable because they are general and abstract. Themes are an invitation to learn more. If someone says, “You can’t trust government,” or, “The company is greedy,” and you say, “What do you mean?”, many times the specific issue people have about the subject is revealed. Sometimes, however, themes have no issues behind them and simply reflect how people feel about a subject.

There are three community themes that emerged in conversations with Illinois Valley residents about public land management.

1. **“It’s all getting locked up and we don’t know why.”**
2. **“They don’t call back.”**
3. **“Management is not active enough.”**

#### **1. “It’s all getting locked up and we don’t know why.”**

Residents with diverse interests shared a common perception that public land is less accessible than it once was, and that the reasons are not understood. As the next section shows, there are specific citizen issues attached to this theme, but it is fair to say that there is a loss associated with this theme, even a grieving that people express, showing their love for the land and their love of lifestyles in which public land access is easier.

“They closed down the jeep run. They closed the Iron Horse Rodeo.”

“I’d like to see decent access to our lands.”

“Public land should be open to the public!”

“I would allow more public access to our lands.”

“Take the gates down and let the public in on their lands.”

“I used to explore by car. Now, you can’t do that.”

“My big concern is the continuing closures of the public’s access to the public lands.”

“There are too many regulations now. In the past, there was more freedom for adventure and enjoying the forest. They should unlock the gates to there is public land for recreation. Trust the people to pack out their debris.”

“There are now gates on every road. Even at the Cuts there is a gate now. There is a place we go fishing that now you have to pay to park nearby.”

“Our public lands should look more inviting to recreation instead of inhibiting our recreation.”

“The Rough and Ready Botanical Wayside is an example of government initiatives that get carried away. It was started by Lady Bird Johnson and expanded to 4200 acres. It’s more area that gets cut off from use.”

“My wife has arthritis so she will never see the Kalmiopsis. I’d like to drive her up there but it is not legal.”

“Open the gates and give the forest back to the people.”

“I’m disabled and public lands are not user friendly to me.”

## **2. “They don’t call back.”**

This theme refers to relations with the public land management agencies. It refers generally to the lack of communication people feel with agency staff and their sense of lack of participation in agency decisions. This is not a universal sentiment and many people shared stories of positive relations with individual agency staff. People want agencies to be more open to community input and to be more public-service oriented.

“I just wish we had better communication, with broader input than usual.”

“BLM is a black hole. They never call back.”

“The agencies should do more outreach. When we offer support to the agencies we are treated like pariahs. The BLM trail near Lake Selmac has had a tree blocking it for over a year.”

“BLM came into Selma about 8 years ago and said we’d like to do something different, something better, get more involvement. That was the Deer Mom project around Lake Selmac. They made people so angry. It has not worked.”

“If I could, I’d get the BLM to talk and listen and keep egos out. Keep one-upmanship out of the picture. Work together and compromise.”

“I don’t know what they’re doing out there anyway.”

“I find the BLM to still be wearing blinders. Instead of embracing the checkerboard structure of their lands as a creative challenge, they respond with fear and barriers to the pressures around them.”

### 3. “Management is not active enough.”

Again, residents of very diverse interests share this theme that management is not active enough on public lands.

“They don’t take care of our trees. They make it more complicated than what it is.”

“They are not doing a very good job of managing our lands. They should select log and clean up the forests.”

“The land is not being managed. Biscuit Fire was a tragedy.”

“The forests need to be managed better because right now there really isn’t any management. There are areas all over the forest with dead and dying trees that should be removed for forest health and fire issues. We could put people to work cutting trees and cleaning up these areas and providing timber for mills. Salvage in our valley could provide 40-50 jobs.”

“All that work of those years, planting, thinning, trails, but it isn’t kept up, bridges, nothing done since. Nothing is being maintained.”

“It ain’t being managed. It’s just sitting!”

## Citizen Issues about Public Land Management

Citizen issues are defined as statements people make that could be acted upon. They are specific concerns whose resolution is believed would improve local conditions for the individual, the community, or the forest. It is important to stress that issues reflect individual’s perceptions about conditions or events which may not be factually accurate or tell the whole story. Issues do, however, reflect potential partners in creating positive change and indicate possible actions in fostering responsive governance.

Citizen issues related to public land management that emerged from community fieldwork are explored below and center on the following topics:

- Recreation
- Off Road Vehicle Use
- Eco-Tourism
- Forest Management
- Forestry-related Employment
- Dumping and Trash
- Mining
- Law Enforcement

## Recreation

Illinois Valley residents are active and even daily users of public land. They engage in a variety of recreation choices throughout the area as listed previously. Many people cited recreation management as their top priority.

“Recreation should be at the top of the list. I think logging in this area is way past its prime.”

“Public land should be available for a wide variety of public uses.”

“I like how they maintain the Page Mountain Sno-Park, how they maintain that place and the cabin for the people and families to use.”

## Roads and Access

“The public agencies need to reduce their road systems to manageable levels.”

“There is a lack of road maintenance.”

“I would give the power of road closures and resource moratoriums to a vote of the people of the county.”

“Access has to be improved to our lands.”

“Page Mountain has a snow park. You can get a ticket now if you on the road driving without a snow park permit. The second bridge is a favorite swim hole. No more. They put up cement pillars and you can't get in there. The frog ponds on Waldo Road are now cut off. The Tennessee area—closed down.”

“I'd like to see better roads or at least maintained roads.”

“There should be better road maintenance. Look at Sucker Creek Road, Althouse Creek Road, Upper and Lower Grayback Roads, also Portuguese Flat and French Gulch—all overgrown.”

“I would like to see easy access with good infrastructure.”

“Some of these roads need better maintenance. There are some really nice camp sites along Eight Dollar Road but there are a lot of potholes.”

“BLM closed access to St. Pat's Catholic Church cemetery and I don't know why. This is a closure of cultural access.”

“If you go west on Sucker Creek, there are a lot more gates. Some gates, I get why they're closed. But for a lot of gates, we just don't know why they were put in. If there are vandals, let us help report them and get the gates open.”

“It was great to see the state come in and protect Eight Dollar Mountain. I’m not sure how protected it is for mining but it is perfect for recreation. Now you can’t have vehicle access, which we did when I was a kid. There is a plus and a minus. If you give people vehicle access they will abuse it.”

“My favorite swimming hole used to be Pomeroy Dam on the Illinois, but it has been closed off and we can’t get in there anymore. I don’t know why but it was getting trashed pretty heavy with bottles, cans, and diapers.”

“I’d like to see some more access to our back country and more roads open, but of course they’d need some kind of regulation from tearing it all up. Thirty years ago, people had respect for the land and cabins and shelters.”

“I’d like to see more roads open and fewer gates closed.”

“Every existing road and trail should be open to multiple use.”

“I like to see locked gates to keep the land good. I don’t like to see the off road vehicles tearing things up. But more access for firewood and poles would be good.”

### Trails and Access

“We’d like to get a river walk trail along West Fork that includes handicapped access. It would include state and private land but it’s a flood plain. Rough and Ready workers use it all the time for picnics and for the swim hole.”

“There are plenty of trails but they are not maintained. All trails should be and are for multi-use, except for motors.”

“Get more recreation trails, especially single track for bikes.”

“The new multi-use trail at Forks State Park off Westside includes BLM land. They gave us permission to use the roads as trails without doing NEPA and we used abandoned roads as well. This area now needs fuels reduction work to make a picnic area.”

“The new horse and hiking trail [near Forks State Park] includes BLM land on which hunting is allowed. Hunting should not be allowed there anymore as there are people using that trail all the time.”

“Some horse trail people hide trails because if even one single-track vehicle gets on them they get ruined. Linking these horse trails would be a positive development.”

“Develop more and safe bike trails. San Jose had a system of paved trails for walking or biking that went 35 miles from San Jose to Gilroy. The trails were connected to parks that had a nominal fee for use. The fee helped keep the riff-raff out.”

“Hogue Meadows at the head of East Fork hiking trails, needs gated because of the damage. It has become a tradition on senior skip day to go trash public land. I told school officials that they should give early notice of that date so we can monitor things.”

### Cost

“Access to public lands and established trails should be free. For example, Limpy Creek trail has a fee. Fees for camping in improved areas are okay because of the cost of upkeep.”

“Camping fees are okay, but we don’t like park and pay fees for hiking. We thought it was a temporary experimental fee, but it still exists. Day-use fees at parks where upkeep is needed are OK.”

“Public lands should be available to everyone free of charge.”

“The Forks State Park is a good example of how unchecked alcohol and drug abuse can drive people away. We went there a couple of times and just drove through the parking lot and out again. Fees would assist in the cost and keeping the damage down. Maybe locals get a season pass to reduce their cost.”

### Signs for Information and Interpretation

“Promote hiking by making it easier to access trails by improving existing roads and signs. We also need to improve trails because many of them are eroded and hard to navigate if not a very experienced hiker.

“We have to get people to use the woods in order to care about them. The forest needs to be experienced. When people walk a trail, they will be more apt to understand what needs to be protected. The more you learn about this area, the more you realize how special it is. We need to realize on a deeper level what a special place we live in.”

“Get better signs.”

“The interpretive signs on Eight Dollar Road are great. That is eco-tourism.”

“The Forest Service has zero road signs. They have all been pulled. We need better signage.”

### Rules and Regulations

“I would make it legal to take good dogs anywhere on public land It is getting where you can’t take your dog anywhere with you anymore.”

### Recreation Events on Public Land

A number of issues was expressed by individuals active in planning and implementing recreation events on public land. In situations in which a fee is charged, the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management require a special use permit for the event, although evidently their two programs are structured differently.

“The Moon Tree Run was planned to be a fly-in event at the airport. It involved a run which included a small portion of BLM ground. BLM wanted \$3000! We had to cancel the event.”

“BLM is intractable by relying on policy that is determined internally which they regard as law. They are charging us more and more for recreation events on public land even though we use those funds for trail maintenance on public lands.”

“The BLM says it has to charge fees with no exceptions but this is really personal agenda of staff. It’s not related to law.”

“We were doing public events on BLM trails at Lake Selmac for years. Then they wanted us to pay. We have all decided not to volunteer for BLM in the future.”

“I told them they were going to lose me as a volunteer and they did.”

### Location of Recreation Areas

“Upstream from Four Corners should be recreational use. Don’t allow resource extraction in high recreation areas.”

### Recreation Jobs

“We could have hundreds of people working just in maintenance of the land and roads. This would improve the recreational access and opportunities for the various OHV groups. This would increase the tourism value to our valley.”

### Off Road Vehicle Use

Many residents expressed interest in, but concern about, off road vehicle use. Such use can take the form of single-track motorcycles, quads, ATVs (All Terrain Vehicles), jeeps, and other vehicles with four-wheel drive. Off road vehicle use appears to be high in the Illinois Valley with many residents participating in the activity. At the same time, both participants and residents pointed out the problems of such activity including erosion, tearing up the land, and making unauthorized trails.

“I ride my bike all around on public roads. I purchase a permit for eight dollars a year.”

“I have a nice jeep and I love driving the back roads. I don’t even spin my wheels. I just like getting away and camping.”

The Motorcycle Riders Association of Medford is working on the Boundary Trail which straddles the ridge between the Rogue River and Siskiyou National Forests. This trail is on the former boundary between the Rogue River and Siskiyou National Forests (now merged), and the two forests had different management approaches which are becoming reconciled with the issuance of the new Travel Management Plan, released in October, 2011. The McGrew Trail is a four-wheel drive trail southwest of Cave Junction on which two events are permitted a year. This is an old historic route to the coast. For about 30 years, the Oregon Creek and Trail Run has been held on the



McGrew Trail which involves 50-100 people. These events are family-oriented and attract people from around the region.

### The Vision

“More access to sustainable trails. We espouse the tread lightly rule!”

### The Damage

“OHV use really needs to be addressed. Some of those guys are doing some severe damage. They really need to stay on the trails.”

“I see OHV damage in certain areas. French Flat is BLM ground off Rockydale. There is a walkway going in but there is a big yellow gate over it now. You can see garbage. The druggies would go in and pull out all the copper in the facilities.”

“I enjoy recreation trail riding on my quad or motorcycle, and I’d like to make it clear that we only use public maintained roads.”

“Motorcycles are everywhere and they are an issue. They’re out of control.”

“Off highway vehicles in one afternoon can do damage it takes horses 20 years to accomplish.”

“Quad users get no respect; they are shunned in the community. They were shut out of Howard Prairie by BLM and the Army Corps.”

“One priority is the abuse of off road vehicles terrorizing the wildlife and tearing up our outdoors. It’s those people as well as the ones dumping trash that have brought a lot of these road closures. I’ve seen groups or riders from a dozen up to 50 hell bent for election on tearing up our outdoors. They are going so fast, they cannot see or appreciate Mother Nature.”

“Noise and dust are created by ATV's that are not licensed for public roads. There is no enforcement of unlicensed vehicles traveling to and from public areas. It’s okay if they stay in designated areas.”

### Improvement through Regulation and Other Means

“Law enforcement is not patrolling unregulated OHV on public lands, especially in sensitive botanical areas.”

“I ride backcountry roads on my motorcycle. I’m not going off the roads tearing up the land but just staying on our gravel roads. Don’t get me wrong, I’m an environmentalist but we have to use common sense.”

“We need to develop more responsible ways of dealing with ORV’s misuse and damage. Recreation is the future of public lands.”

“Off road vehicles should be restricted with enforcement in sensitive areas. Give them non-sensitive areas.”

“I’d be interested in being part of an OHV group to help assess and monitor a master plan to improve and promote access in our community.”

“I want someplace for the kids to be able to go. There are more and more restrictions. There are now gates on every road.”

“Make secondary roads open to quads and motorcycles.”

“Educate the youth.”

“There are no off-road clubs in the IV and that may be why there are so many renegades.”

“I’d like to see our secondary roads opened for quads and motorcycles to legally use. These rigs need to be regulated because they can do a lot of damage like tear up wetlands and soil erosion.”

“I’d try to educate the younger folks about what is going on and what’s at stake. They are tearing stuff up. I belong to a four-wheel drive association and we try to educate the younger generation how to save our roads and trails. You have to respect our trails.”

“The growth of ATVs and side-by-sides alone in the last 10 years has been about 300%. Has management kept up with that growth? What are we going to do about tomorrow, not just today?”

### Off-Road Vehicle Use as Economic Development

“They should promote off highway vehicle industry and generate lots of jobs and revenues.”

“I really think they should cater or promote the OHV industry. It’s a huge cash cow. We have so many roads into beautiful areas. Look at Charleston Dunes!”

“As you can see here today, these folks are putting a lot of money into your local economy. We’re buying a lot of groceries, ice and beer! Not to mention fuel.” [Participant of the Oregon Creek and Trail Run on McGrew Trail, 2011]

### Eco-Tourism Development

The concept of eco-tourism is that an area can attract visitors who are educated as to the culture, history, and natural systems of the area. In contrast to mass tourism, eco-tourism promotes fewer numbers with a higher quality of experience with an emphasis on distribution of the benefits of tourism throughout the population and an emphasis on keeping impacts low.

Eco-tourism is a concept talked about in the IV for at least two decades and some steady improvements have been made over the years. There are two galleries now, for instance, that showcase the work of local artisans. The success of the tree house resort in recent years in promoting itself as a destination area has attracted renewed interest in the concept. Eco-tourism was discussed by many, many residents as the future of public lands and was the dominant answer when asked the kind of jobs that public land management was best suited to support.

The existing elements of eco-tourism, as defined by residents, include:

- Three State Parks, abundant Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management land.
- The Caves National Monument plus other National Park facilities on a driving circuit, notably Crater Lake. One study estimated 100,000 visitors yearly on the highway, 75% of whom go to the Caves National Monument.
- Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI) holds most of its classes on public land. It has an agreement with the Rogue River-Siskiyou and the Six Rivers National Forests and pays for special use permits. Education of children and youth is a key interest. SFI attracts about 2000 participants to its programs annually, many from outside the area.
- The Visitors Center and the Kerby Gallery sell products made by local artists and craftsmen from local resources, pine needle baskets, llama wool hats, woven toys for children, wood carvings, pottery, and beautiful wooden furniture.
- Various public land events that include four-wheel drives, mountain bikes, hiking and horse use.
- The smokejumpers museum at the airport. The aviation community is robust and offers an additional means to attract visitation.
- The several vineyards and wineries in the Illinois Valley which have proven successful in attracting visitors.
- Out 'N About Treesort which has been highly successful in bringing in visitors, hiring local people, partly through its strong global network of similar enterprises.
- Rusk Ranch Nature Center, with diverse flora and fauna near the Illinois River, is an interactive facility for children and adults.
- The Burl Place.
- Cycle Oregon and similar events that embody the eco-tourism approach.
- There is a group called the Illinois Valley Recreation Opportunities Committee, comprised of BLM, National Park Service, State Parks, Forest Service, and the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization, is oriented to ecotourism approaches, seeking to foster a coordinated approach to local recreation development.
- Emerging regional trails, notably the Coast to Crest trail, which will be finished after completion of 8 miles in the Illinois Valley near Bolen Lake.

### On the Ecotourism Concept

“The Out N' About Treehouses are a great example of the kind of job creation with tourism because it's low impact as opposed to something like the Jet Boat trips on the Rogue. It has created lots of local jobs.”

“Rafting and trails are good low impact activities and tourists then spend money in town.”

“The natural beauty of the area should be left alone as much as possible. That is what has always attracted people to the Valley.”

“There are other communities around the country that make lots of revenue from eco-tourism. We have a huge but relatively untapped potential.”

“I think we could have a big tourism industry. ‘Cycle Oregon’ paid out over \$20,000 in one day.”

“I think we should promote tourism, not to the exclusion of everything else, of course. The wineries and the Oregon Caves National Monument are very big tourist attractions.”

“Eight Dollar Mountain has become a mecca for serious botanists.”

“Tourism could provide jobs. The more we get people to use the forest, the more they will understand it and what it needs.”

“Eco-tourism is the ultimate economic future for our region.”

“What about tours with destination resorts that combine recreation and education? Mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding and van tours could create a lot of jobs and revenue. The soccer, football, and volleyball teams all worked supporting the Cycle Oregon event here. We raised a lot of funds that supported these activities. My team ran the food concession at Lake Selmac for the event.”

“Caves Creek could be designated as ‘Wild and Scenic.’ It would be the first underground stream so designated. Rough and Ready Creek would also be eligible. There would then be 3 waterways in the Illinois Valley that are wild and scenic which would increase visitors.”

“I hope eco-tourism increases for better use of public lands. It is a way to care for the land, and create jobs and more revenue.”

“When I worked the front desk at the Forest Service, I was amazed at all the people in, year after year, to see the wildflowers. It is a huge economic boon.”

“Hunting, fishing, rafting. These are huge in Josephine County. These are economic issues.”

“The Illinois Valley is a salmon stronghold. If you are in LA and look up salmon strongholds, you will see a little green spot in Oregon. That’s us. This giant fact is not appreciated locally.”

“Utilizing local experts—guides—to harvest the abundance of our local forests. Like hunting, fishing, photos, bicycles, rafting, birdwatching, hiking, even though tourism is down a little now.”

“Recreational areas could bring more income. Horse trails all around the valley rim with various access points for ingress and egress with campsites, lodging, or food facilities at those points. A large enough area for ATV's located in a non-sensitive area that would attract people from out of town. Also designated areas for specific purposes bring ownership from users which promotes care and cleaning up of areas.”

“Because of its prime location, BLM or Forest Service should buy the land Junction Inn is currently on at the junction of 199 and Caves Highway to create a destination lodge with outdoor activities and events. A destination lodge would bring people to Cave Junction as a central location for all the tourist attractions around the area.”

“At the current location of Valley Farm and Garden at 199 and Watkins, create a valley cooperative for local crafters, artists, people raising food or plants—a place for tourists to stop and purchase local items. The cooperative could have a website to sell to people out of the area. They could also provide demonstrations, workshops, and teach classes.”

“When I worked at the Caves, we had 1000 visitors a day. We need to promote the area's other attractions. Website development is the single best way we can do this. Our natural beauty is world class. If you promote these things, then you help the town. We need to make Cave Junction more attractive and quaint.”

“How about guided pack trips on horses?”

### Eco-Tourism Planning

Local interest in eco-tourism planning appears high, in part because the activities which fall under the eco-tourism heading are so diverse. Work has been underway on the Coast to Crest Trail to link existing trails. It proceeds through Smith River and the Redwood Park through the Wild Rivers District of the Forest Service and proceeds to the Klamath National Forest. There is reportedly an eight-mile stretch in the Illinois Valley near Bolen Lake that needs to be completed before this regional trail is complete. In addition, the Siskiyou Upland Trails Association is a new group formed to promote a non-motorized trail between Jacksonville and Grants Pass along the ridges.

“The existing motels are shabby and don't invite people to stay. Also, RV'ers and campers are staying elsewhere, either before they get here or after passing through.”

“We hardly ever ride our bikes here because of the safety issue. We would buy a pass and use them a lot if there were safe bike trails. We have heard from many other residents that they would use bike trails.”

“Have local people who can tell stories about the history of the area.”

“To make the Illinois Valley a destination requires lodging. There simply are not enough beds here to get people to stay.”

“About one third of our visitors are elderly with canes. We have to plan tourism for the disabled and elderly.”

“We need a valley map, showing all the tourism resources, a seamless product, with all the players represented.”

“The Sequoia National Forest was very instrumental in promoting eco-tourism and educational opportunities. They did that with start-up funding and making their resources available like data and staff personnel. There was a group of private citizens, business and non-profits, as well as the federal agencies that worked cooperatively to host a three-day wildlife festival which celebrated ecological diversity of that area. It is now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year!”

“For public lands which are close in and more accessible, we should coordinate our planning with the federal agencies.”

“We need better marketing for tourists, capture the tourist dollar. The town should be tidied up. We need a decent hotel and meeting spaces.”

“We would like to see things that promote tourism, something in town to make people want to stop instead of just driving through. Also, a shuttle bus to the Caves two or more times a day is a good idea.”

“Tourism should not be thought of as a service industry as much but as a strategy to get business to locate here.”

“My dream is to shut down Highway 199 one weekend a year and have a recreation event between Crescent City and Cave Junction.”

“There are a lot of jobs to be created by keeping the roads open and our access open.”

A segment of the population is not interested in promoting tourism. This preference emerges in resisting efforts to beautify Cave Junction and in skepticism that tourism has really generated jobs or income.

“Do not sell your soul for tourism business.”

“I question how much money and jobs could be brought into town by tourism. It seems like most people want a Disneyland or Cancun experience. It would be hard to get the amount of investment it would take for a vacation destination because we are so remote. To build in the hope that then they will come does not seem practical. We are just a stop on the road, a pass through.”

“I’ve heard of eco-tourism for years but where is it? Show me the money or the jobs.”

“It is hard to see how tourism could be promoted to create very many jobs. I don’t see the draw here to create a destination area. The number of tourists that would be interested in coming to the valley seems small.”

## Forest Service Management Concerns Regarding Recreation

Forest Service recreation staff shared these management concerns related to public land recreation in the Illinois Valley:

- Some areas are being overused and the quality of the experience is going down for recreationists. Some analysis of “carrying capacity” may have to be undertaken and restrictions in use may have to be considered. New policy direction in the Forest Service is “sustainable recreation.”
- National Forest funding is low and not likely to rise soon. The agency is more dependent on quality volunteers than ever before. Some volunteer activities, such as building or maintaining trails, can be hazardous and require safety training and supervision.
- New trail development is not likely because of funding limitations, the steep and rugged terrain, and the proliferation of unauthorized trails during the last couple of decades. The Forest Service is prioritizing trails now in order to target its resources appropriately.
- Parking is a concern in some areas, especially in areas with one-lane roads. Sometimes emergency vehicles cannot get in.
- There is off-highway vehicle damage by the green bridge on Eight Dollar Mountain Road, a sensitive botanical area.
- The agency would like more trails on Page Mountain and feels like it is the kind of recreation amenity that will attract travelers off the highway and add to the economy.
- The water system at Page Mountain was pulled out by vandals last year with many thousands of dollars in damage. The high cost is unlikely to allow redevelopment of this amenity anytime soon.
- The Siskiyou and Rogue River National Forests have different policies about off-highway vehicle use, yet the Motorcycle Riders Association (MRA) of Medford is developing a trail on the ridge separating these management areas. The Forests have to resolve this policy contradiction.
- The Forest just completed its Travel Management Plan in October, 2011.

## **Forest Management**

“Sometimes people think there is never change, that they want the forest to stay the same. But that will never happen. Forests are not static, they are changing all the time. We should be looking at 200 years out.” [BLM staff]

When residents were asked their vision for the forests in the future, almost everyone said something about having them be just like they are today, but then went onto elaborate in more detail. An earlier section described a composite vision that residents put forward. This section discussed the specific issues people expressed related to forest management.

### Old Growth

It is fair to say that the value for not cutting old growth has entered mainstream society. Almost everyone prefaced their remarks to the team with statements like, “Of course, old growth has to be protected,” and went on to elaborate in various ways. Old-timers scoff at this notion. Their

conception of old growth is that it cannot be “saved”—by definition it is near death and can’t be “managed.” And they tend to dismiss the notion of species dependent on old growth, citing instances in which they saw spotted owls in second growth forest.

“Number one, we need to manage at the highest level the old growth that remains. Most of the remaining old growth is in the headwaters which has a direct relationship to water quality.”

### Clear Cutting

The opposition to clear-cutting is widespread.

“I have never been a fan of clear-cuts. I worked on them when I was hired by other loggers, but I never thought it was a good way to log. Even without the environmentalists stopping sales, I don’t think the level of production could have been sustained. The market itself would have adjusted without any interference from groups trying to stop it.”

### Lack of Project Information

“I keep hearing about logging proposals on Althouse Creek, the East Fork of the Illinois, Sucker Creek. I’ve seen plans for all over the valley, but I don’t know the current status, I don’t know if they have backed off.”

### Spraying

“I am very concerned about Rough and Ready doing aerial herbicide spraying at Lake Selmac. Maybe it could be done by hiring people to do the work by hand. It may cost more for lumber, but it is impossible to stop the drift. It can get into the water and adjacent land.”

“There is just no rationale for spraying. From a scientific standpoint and from a cost standpoint, it doesn’t make sense, and the consequences are not good.”

“Spraying, they just won’t stop.”

“There used to strong efforts at non-herbicide weed control which was very successful. There’s no money now.”

“Rough and Ready [mill] says they will listen and then they go and spray. I don’t fault them. There are conflicting interests. New people, newcomers to the area, don’t get it.”

“Perpetua was trying to spray herbicides on 80 acres. There was a big confrontation by people who opposed it, so the company said, ‘Help us put these weed mats down around the trees’, but it was too much work. Protesters wouldn’t help.”

“After Perpetua sprayed, there were fewer insects and birds.”

“I have a big question about pesticides—they are expensive, they don’t work well and there are negative side effects.”



## Noxious Weeds

“There is a lot of work in noxious weed removal.”

“Invasive weeds on public land are a high priority to me.”

“Alyssum is big problem. It was planted and went crazy. Scotch Broom has been spreading as well and is highly flammable. The Landscape Assessment has to account for weeds.”

“Integrated weed management is a priority.”

“We have to get on Scotch Broom now. It’s getting into the woods. I’ve asked around and no one saw it before 20 years ago.”

## Fires

“The Smokejumper Base should be brought back for fire protection. In early years, some local fires were kept under control because of it.”

“Bear Creek Road is one of the main evacuation routes in case of fire. It was in terrible disrepair the last time I was driving the fire truck. Also, it should have Evacuation Route signs. There is also a route in the Deer Creek area on Forest Service roads over to Williams, and they are not marked clearly. People could easily get lost if they are not familiar with the roads.”

“We are wondering about areas in the Kalmiopsis which are not coming back after the fire. Why are some areas of Biscuit Fire still barren with no regeneration at all?”

“It is a scam when you hear: ‘Cut it down so it doesn’t burn.’”

“Fuels reduction work has been done on a lot of the private land between O’Brien and Selma, but the landowners point to public land across their fence and they are worried.”

“Some people use brush as a fence, which is a problem.”

“Fires are a very important part of natural ecology. We need to mimic natural fire processes in a man-made way.”

## Controlled Burns

“I don’t like controlled burns. They could easily get out of control, there is so much brush.”

## Burned Areas

Treatment of burned over forest lands brings out the differences between the traditional and progressive segments of the community. For traditional people, failure to log burned timber stands

is a waste of a resource. For progressive people, logging after a fire creates high environmental impact.

“I would start logging all the burnt timber.”

“There is not enough reforestation. The Biscuit Fire could be restored and replanted. Also, quicker response to our lands burning.”

“The Biscuit Fire—all those trees lost because they wouldn’t let us go in there and get them.”

“Salvage logging policy is a big concern. If a fire burns it is not the end of a landscape, but logging and dragging trees around causes a large amount of harm and turns it into a moonscape. They are over salvaging. I liken it to mugging a burn victim.”

### Roads

“One of the biggest threats to the forest is making new roads. This may be even more destructive than clear cuts. It creates lots of erosion. It also allows access for many more people which is destructive to sensitive areas. Helicopter logging is much better and causes much less damage.”

### Forest Management Operations

“Management needs to be differently, depending on the area of the valley because of the distinct difference in types of forest. “

“Some time ago, we wrote a letter about proposed logging on Kirkham Hill which is BLM and just up the road from our home. What kind of management comes right into people's backyard to log?”

“I understand that we can no longer harvest at the rate we did in the past. We can’t harvest trees at a rate faster than we can produce them.”

“I am very concerned that some ill-advised timber harvests are still being conducted.”

“We need to utilize small diameter trees.”

“Maybe some selective logging would be okay in certain non-critical areas.”

“I think wood products should be utilized, including firewood and chips.”

“Start logging for wood to build houses, but select cut! You gotta bring back the timber industry. It always has been timber country!”

“Cedars need to be protected. No cutting any live cedars. They protect our waterways like up around Sebastapol and Canyon Creeks.”

“Sugar pine needs to be protected.”

“Lomakatsi has opened the canopy up too much, opening the soil to the rain.”

“It seems like there have been a lot of log trucks on the road with big logs on them and they aren’t even going to our local mill.”

“Forestry discussions will work better if we are all clear on the terms. Don’t call it “regen” if it’s a clearcut. Small diameter trees can be removed but you have to watch out for soil damage.”

“The best logging practices are 1-5 acre clear cuts. Small clear cuts on north-east slopes at low elevations. Never high elevation cuts. 3500-4500 elevation is the cutoff point. 4500 and up, never.”

“Emphasize better silviculture practices for future tree productivity.”

“There is a lot of talk about restoration forestry. Revenues from timber will never come back. The benefits to the county from restoration forestry are fire and jobs.”

“The Coast Range Association took Google Earth and applied WOPR to it [Western Oregon Plan Revision effort of BLM]. It showed high levels of harvest projected for some very pristine areas. It was a scary realization. It was all laid out.”

“People ask how to keep the mill running, but when they have to bring in big trees from northern California, how sustainable is that?”

“The Forest Service is kinda between a rock and a hard place. I’d like to see more timber sales so Rough and Ready could make some money.”

“I’d like to see a little more logging and mining but it couldn’t be like it used to be. We really had some beautiful timber in this country, especially around Page Mountain. Some of those firs were 8-10’ dbh [diameter at breast height]. One tree had 22,000 board feet!”

“Right now there are enough lands in wilderness. Placing more lands off limits to timber production is not the way to go.”

“Eight Dollar Mountain should never be logged. For that matter, no southwest facing slope should ever be logged because the trees will be boiled by the sun.”

“Logging should be staged for perpetual cutting. Develop a timber plan for 100 years.”

“BLM should deal with its checkerboard lands, sell them, create local parks, or create blocks of land through trades and sales.”

“Waterway management should and could be improved.”

## Thinning

“My friends and I went riding the other day and had a discussion about thinning. It seems like a good idea for fire protection. I am very against clearcut logging or downing old growth, but thinning seems okay.”

“Excessive vegetation in the forest is inhibiting habitat.”

“Thinning on the overstocked areas that we planted 30 years ago is the priority.”

“I don’t do thinning per se, but if there are dead or dying trees, I take them out, unless there is wildlife value. I say don’t thin. I learned a lot from Orville Camp and consider him my mentor. I have 200 acres and believe I should be paid for producing oxygen.”

“I’d like to see the whole area look like Hayes Hill looks like now. The thinning is good. It looks like a giant park.” [Fire District official]

“Most stands have too much smaller material. Black oak are getting choked, the pine are being impacted.”

## Firewood

“I used to cut my winter wood every year off public land. The permits were \$5 for two cords.”

“There is not enough firewood offered in the valley. Why all the piles? Why not sell permits to thin the piles for firewood, have people sign ‘hold harmless’ papers, and get firewood going? There is a pile now on Rockydale Road.”

“We need more firewood harvest to serve the poor people of the valley.”

## Monitoring

“Around Babyfoot Lake after the fire, a company was given permission to cut, and they cut more than was authorized and also cut out of the designated areas. It did not seem to be properly supervised.”

“Instead of BLM being in charge of oversight of logging operations, a third party should monitor logging, especially in sensitive areas.”

“People need to be involved in the prescription. We should be able to monitor the results.”

## Management Concerns of BLM Related to Forestry Practice

- Some segments of the environmental community are willing to obstruct any action of any kind.

- There is a loss of large pines, often the remnant trees of past disturbances. We need to manage for large pines again;
- Internal bureaucracy keeps us from operating quickly and efficiently.
- Some people have a hands-off philosophy with a short term perspective. We need a long-term perspective of understanding that forests change and require management.
- The time to get projects from conception to implementation is long.
- Management objectives and community objectives often conflict.
- There is a lack of understanding of BLM laws.
- We need to maintain the infrastructure of forestry workers in the area.
- It would help if residents helped identify priority areas for active management.

### Management Concerns of the Forest Service Related to Forestry Practice

- Forest restoration work is shifting from a shotgun approach to a holistic approach. The recent focus is on creating “Restoration Action Plans” to restore whole watershed, like Sucker Creek. “We want contiguous, connected habitat areas.”
- With cutbacks, staff limitations are even more severe.
- “Get people to see the bigger picture so they know what our sideboards are, what the tradeoffs are. Smoke is not easy to deal with but if you can tolerate it, worse smoke from a real fire can be avoided.”
- Forest Service costs go down as the number of acres goes up. “We have the same labor costs for a five-acre project as a 500-acre project.”
- “It would be positive to get community guidelines from which we could develop projects.”
- The Forest Service is preparing its internal five-year plan now and has left room for community-based nominations for the type, scale and location of forest management projects that stem from the Illinois Valley Landscape Assessment.

### Economic Livelihood from Restoration Forestry

Economic livelihood from public land management is of high interest. Forestry work is part of the cultural landscape of the Illinois Valley and people want it extended into the future. Earlier, restoration forestry was defined as a focus on thinning, reduction of fuel load, brush removal, some canopy opening, small diameter tree harvest, and some commercial timber. That definition seems to be the most mainstream position that reflects the interests of most Illinois Valley residents.

Restoration forestry is not easily profitable. The conflicts emerge over “some commercial timber.” How much? For some people, any commercial return is not acceptable. For others, including those doing forestry work, a commercial aspect is essential to make it “pencil out.” The challenge in the coming months in completing the Landscape Assessment is to work through a community-based answer to this conflict.

“We need jobs from the forest. Schools are closing down because of low enrollments.”

“The first thing I would do is a full and thorough assessment of the lands and timber. After the assessment, I would evaluate how each community can keep jobs going from the timber and the lands around them.”

“They need to find some money to hire locals for forest health, mostly fuels reduction and waterway improvements. They could create jobs like the C.C.C. used to do. That got us out of the first depression. Roosevelt put 250,000 men to work doing mostly conservation work.”

“I am hot and heavy into stewardship planning but you will have to keep going into the woods to thin every 5 years. This will have to go on forever. Meanwhile, where will you find the funds to cover it? We have to find a commercial contingency to make this stewardship make money. There has to be a balance to make it work.”

“I take exception to saying that not being able to log loses mill jobs. They are so automated that many jobs have been lost from the automation already. Automation is fine, but you cannot then blame the owl for lost jobs.”

“Forest jobs in the future look should be related to forest thinning. Hire crews to do the thinning as an alternative to clear cutting, like Lomakatsi [Restoration Project].”

“We could hire people to work in the woods, clearing the underbrush for fuel reduction and reduce fires.” [Common]

“They could hire trail crews to clean and maintain all the different trails. Also, mark and post signs. For instance, the trail to Devil’s Punchbowl is poorly defined.”

“It should be legal to grow hemp or anything that comes out of the ground. There could be lots of highly useable products that could create tax-paying jobs.”

“How about some hemp farming on the marginal lands? It is a useful product and would create jobs.”

“We should put people to work on weed eradication and also planting more wherever trees will grow. Also we should utilize some timber products for artists and craftspeople to make beautiful useable products for the people.”

“We need to create commercial access regarding timber harvest.”

“One thing we’ve learned from our small mill is that the smaller trees are high quality. They have tighter rings, suppressed growth.”

“Forestry practices should be oriented to thinning, especially stands planted in the 1970s, the old roads and the platforms.”

“The goal should be year-round employment for people. People need assurance of ongoing work.”

“Fire and watershed health are drivers for restoration forestry.”

“The harvest of special forest products should be encouraged. Also the expansion of the variety of species being gathered should be encouraged. In order for this expansion of gathering to not be a disaster for forest health, the agencies need to do a lot of thinking on how to form useful relationships with harvesters.”

“You can get ferns, cedar boughs, mushrooms, madrone burls.”

“Create jobs for people cleaning up trash sites and also cleaning up the logging slash debris.”

“If you chipped all that underbrush, that would create jobs and is good for forest health. Just shoot the chips back into the forests, especially along the roads where most fires start.”

### Value-added Production

“You should not be able to export logs or use them as an offset.”

“How about tax incentives for artists and craftspeople working here making value added products. All logs harvested in our area from public lands should be milled here locally.”

“Let’s not ship raw logs overseas and buy cheap products made in China. Let’s make the product our families need right here.”

“Jobs should be oriented to thinning, using slash for fuel, harvesting all the poles limbs, stumps, etc. Wood should stay in our valley through value-added product. Picking cones, greens, wreaths, local access to firewood for personal use and wild-crafting.”

“Restoration forestry is the future. Lomakatsi hires lots of folks, semi-skilled and skilled. Trail building. Lot of high value wood products that could be made from thinning. Furniture. Pole building. Doug fir is our bamboo equivalent. Imagination is all that limits the jobs created. A fortune can be made in basketry. Lots of things to be made with forest by products.”

“We should make rare and unique wooden furniture. Use our hardwood species such as manzanita and madrone for functional art and burls. Long-lasting, American-made products for everyday usage such as bowls, plates, chairs, tables.”

“There are a lot of local artists that can utilize different resources from our forests to create sustainable jobs and businesses. How about mountain bike rentals and tours?”

“Go back to the good old American way of manufacturing products. We could utilize madrone and yew wood, for example, to make beautiful flooring and furniture, burial urns.”

“Small diameter, tight grain trees might be good in making laminated beams. There has not been enough thought about what we can do with tight grain Douglas fir.”

## Local Hiring

“There are a lot of jobs to be done in road maintenance and locals should be hired. They should hire more locals on these fires, or at least give them first shot at the work. Local outfits should get the first opportunities.”

“I’d like to create jobs for youth, especially at risk youth instead of putting them in some penal institute.”

## Contractor Issues

Forestry contractor issues relate to concerns that the deck is stacked and small guys can’t get in the game, that the red tape in getting federal contracts is too onerous, and that the economics are not yet there for Restoration Forestry to pay its own way. Some thought that a local organization could apply for federal contracts and then sub-contract the work to small, local contractors, but liability and other considerations have inhibited a full exploration of the concept.

“The red tape [in dealing with the federal government] is just too much. If that changes, give me a call.” [Local logging contractor]

“I’m working with the Forest Service and the IVSWCD [Soil and Water Conservation District] now doing stream restoration work. It’s a little crazy because of all the agencies.”

“I have a Farm Forest Labor Contractor’s license, with required insurance. I am in the ‘exempt’ category which means I can have only 2 employees and contracts have to be under \$25,000. It would cost me about \$10,000 to go bigger. Lots of computer time is required to get this work. You really have to study this stuff on line.”

“There are too many hands in the picture. It’s not work doing stewardship contracts and subbing. Most of the money goes to management. If you streamlined the management with some of these projects, like Deer Willy, it would pay better.”

“There is a lot of slash left to rot. Rough and Ready doesn’t want to pay. They want to pay \$20/dry ton. That is not enough. You need \$40 at least.”

“When prices were hovering at \$650/1000 in the spring of 2011, local contractors could make that work. With prices currently around \$450 or \$500/1000, local interest drops quickly.”

“We are spending to invest [in equipment], but like others, we haven’t seen the work yet.”

“Grayback is the one who benefits from federal contracts. Stewardship contracts are too large for us. I can get a 60 hand crew, but if there are too many sections, it’s just too much.”

“Management seems to be by corporate sponsors. Local loggers are rarely used. Wood is hardly ever taken to local mills.”

“No logging on slopes over 20%. Institute an export tax if logs are leaving the U.S.”



“Agencies are increasing project size but contracts are becoming more difficult because of how they are written.”

“We like small acreage offerings from the feds—100 acres is usual but we’d even prefer 50 acres. I don’t want the hassle with employees. I like to be small. The only federal work I’ve done is fire trails. I get grants to do private land which has gone well. Some of that is funded by BLM. I know how many chip truck loads I have to do to keep the crew going.

“Part of the issue is farm/forest licenses. Only a few people in Josephine County have that, and they you have to have workers compensation, etc. Most ARRA money went to Grayback. Companies like this can outbid and they are more efficient.”

“We do thinning, fuel reduction, tree planting. We work a lot with the Soil and Water Conservation District. I’d like to work with the feds but I don’t too often. It’s hard to know what to do.”

“I don’t do much federal work but lots of fire-fighting. Federal contracts are too large. I have a couple of workers. We do lots of fuel reduction work.”

“Grayback out of Merlin gets most of the work.”

“Payments on federal contracts now are all electronic. If you don’t have a computer this is an obstacle.”

“We try to do contracts for the small guy. We have some multi-year contracts with the same guys because it is cheaper. But we need competition.” [BLM staff]

“Contracts should be streamlined and there should be a commitment for small contracts. Our prices are where they were 20 years ago. I now use pitch wood to start fires rather than fossil fuels because of the cost. To thin an acre we charge \$1200 to \$1700. Some of these contracts are coming in at \$1000 or \$1100.”

“What you see locally is the lack of ability of contractors to participate in stewardship contracting. The best you can do is to be a buddy to a contractor. Agencies are mandated to get 3 bids but they want ‘known entities’. They don’t want new contractors.” [Josephine County logging contractor]

“Typically, government contracts require targets of 200-300 acres a year. I can’t do that. My norm is 25-30 acres. I can build up, though. Allow the small contractor to grow.”

### Timber Industry Perspectives

“These days, the agency does not know the buyers. They do not know what companies need. We used to have Purchaser Meetings in Medford, but they don’t happen now. The communication needs to be improved.”

“The law says that agencies must offer a certain portion of their projects as ‘SBA [Small Business Administration] sales’ but these are not offered as a good match to what is available. There might be an SBA sale for cutting white fir, for example, but we don’t cut that. Then if the sale does not go to SBA, the bigger companies are allowed to bid on it, further shutting out the small companies.”

“The feds can’t get the cut out.”

“I think we could tease the small diameter mill up to greater production. Even though it is not competitive technology, it could provide jobs and make a benefit.” [Rough and Ready mill owner]

“We are a pine mill and we favor medium fir logs also. The mills in the region reflect the mixed forests around here. Swanson’s focus is on doug and white fir. Between companies we match the forest. Go look at the area along Westside Road where Forks State Park is located. Look at those trails. We are a mixed forest.” [Rough and Ready mill owner]

“Our small diameter capacity is an add-on to the mill, not its replacement. The mill needs 20” diameter trees for us to survive.”

“We need people to understand the timber industry has changed. They know how to manage forests better.”

### How to Pay for Restoration Forestry

For industry representatives, land management agency personnel, forestry contractors and many residents in the Illinois Valley, market-based solutions are the goal for Restoration Forestry.

“You have to take some large diameter trees to make it pay.”

“If you pay by the acre, you could get 4000 BF/acre merchantable and you can take the brush and the small diameter as you go.”

“It can’t be all subsidy. It has to pull its own weight.” [Common contractor sentiment]

“Let’s support tax payers through job creation not just the tax users who rely on grants of tax money.”

“My deal is they have to include logging with fire work and brush removal. You can’t depend on taxpayers to get the job done; you have to do the whole thing. Only logging justifies brush clearing. Since logging has gone down, so have the roads and the schools. Thinning only operations are appropriate with fire risk, like behind my house. Get the brush. Leaving only old trees is no good either, you don’t get the regeneration. No clearcuts except special circumstances.” [Contractor]

For other people in the community, subsidies to pay for Restoration Forestry are appropriate. They point to subsidies the timber industry received by way of agency road building during the high

points of timber production. They point to other industries that receive subsidies and say, “Why not this?”

“These restoration projects won’t pencil out. They will need subsidies.”

“Subsidies are fine because these lands were overcut. There are subsidies throughout our lives. We pay for defense, why not this?”

**Biomass Utilization** usually refers to a burning or chemical process of creating energy from brush and slash from forestry operations.

There are two local buyers of biomass material, the Rough and Ready Mill in Cave Junction and Biomass One in White City. Managers for both these operations report marginal conditions for sustaining them. Biomass One relies on government subsidies that make it feasible for private landowners and harvesters to collect material for pickup. They currently pay \$18-20/bone dry ton for material and trucking averages about \$18/ton so it costs them around \$37-40/ton for processing. Its breakeven point is \$35/ton, so the economics of their production is marginal. Rough and Ready is reported to pay even less and residents told several stories of biomass material left unclaimed because of the cost of its removal.

The bulk of intake for Biomass One is from timber sales so it coordinates closely with logging companies and local mills. Company officials believe that the current biomass facilities proposed in the region will prove not to be feasible because of high capital costs for start-up.

“Rough and Ready has done a great job of turning waste into power. It’s a perfect setup for thinning operations because you get some timber for the mill and also revenue from power produced by biomass.”

“There is so much productivity that could come from utilizing slash and un-merchantable material.”

“Alternative energy solutions to replace our current destructive approaches are all moving towards sustainability.”

“Rough and Ready won’t pay anything for biomass.” [Common]

“The Three Rivers School District installed pellet operations in the Illinois Valley High and Evergreen Elementary Schools. So far, it is going great, but this winter will tell the story. We need to increase the local demand for larger heating loads.”

“Biomass is better than burning debris in the forest and wasting it.”

“I’m not comfortable with biomass. I feel like they will take too much, not leave enough for the forest.”

“Major investors are still not stepping in. The agencies have failed to get product out.”  
[Timber industry representative]

In addition to biomass demand, such as it is, Charlie Valdez has a firewood operation east of Selma that hires 3-4 people and can process 8 cords a day for the urban market of San Francisco. He is seeking to expand to a 40-cord operation. The Valdez operation, or others like it, should be considered as part of the strategy for biomass utilization.

**Biochar** is a charcoal product created by burning biomass material that has high nutritional value for forest or garden use and which has high value for its ability to sequester carbon. Biomass can be processed into biochar with mobile units near the forest project or in a more centralized facility. Local individuals in the Illinois Valley have studied and experimented with bio-char for many years.

“Biochar is the single best way to sequester carbon. You can get portable units out on the land, save some of the product for the forest and some for commercial use.”

“Biochar has promise, I imagine projects where some biochar is scattered on the forest floor and some is removed for profit.”

“Let’s look at biochar. Use it with agriculture.”

A final opportunity for biomass use comes from the schools and other public buildings:

“Because two of the schools have gone to pellet heating, there may be an opportunity to begin a small pellet mill here. You could expand use of pellets beyond the schools.”

The use of biomass to create energy and jobs presents cautions to many Illinois Valley residents is the danger that too much material will be removed from the forest floor. Agency staff as well have discussed the “biological standards of retention” of biomass with no single formula for what those standards should be. The Josephine County Stewardship has had public presentation on biomass alternatives and the guidelines for what should be left in the forest. These guidelines would need to be developed further to create any serious biomass initiative in the Illinois Valley.

In summary, the possible ways to pay for Restoration Forestry projects are some combination of the following options, which are sure to be debated in the coming months in completing the Landscape Assessment:

- Subsidy through appropriated funds;
- Some commercial harvest included in restoration forestry projects;
- Pellet or fire brick manufacturing;
- Small diameter log utilization, including dimension lumber, poles and firewood operations;
- Value-added production of material via the arts and crafts community;
- Biomass burning for energy or biochar uses;
- Chemical treatment of biomass to create synthetic natural gas;

## Dumping and Trash

Residents observe frequent trash and dumping sites throughout the Valley both on private and public land, as attested by the comments below. Clean Forest Project is a nonprofit organization based in Grants Pass that has engaged in dump site clean-up on public lands in a multi-state region. Its Director reports that dump sites are often used again after clean-up but that if they stay on a site and keep it clean, that eventually it stays clean. Our team is attempting to map the dump sites to see if there is a pattern in their location. Residents believe that recycling and affordable, designated dump sites are crucial in addressing the issue.

“They are letting people dump their garbage on our lands and they’re not doing anything about it.”

“There should be more emphasis on cleaning up the trashed out areas.”

“Picking up garbage needs to be an ongoing activity”

“There are more and more dump sites. Is there a map of such sites? What do the agencies want to do about this problem?”

“There is terrible dumping in the area.”

“When my wife’s family visits, they comment on how trashed so many rural residence are with junked autos and piled up trash.”

“We were somewhat put off by the appearance of the town when we first moved here, but after a few visits and meeting local people, we really liked the area not only because of the people, but the beauty of the area.”

“We’ve done a lot of clean ups over the years, picking up trash and debris.”

“I would create jobs for people cleaning up trash sites and also cleaning up the logging slash debris.”

“My number one concern is the trashing of public areas. People using public lands for dumping areas.” [

“I believe in the motto, ‘Pack out what is packed in.’ There is too much trash being left.”

“Backwoods dumping is a big problem. I’m very concerned about the amount of trash that is dumped on public lands just up the road from our house.”

“We need to come up with a process to recycle waste instead of dumping. How about a central information center for recycling all waste?”

“We should have easier access to recycling in town which would impact surrounding area with less trash.”

“Expand Youth Corps to build trails and clean up litter.”

## Mining

Mining issues stem from miners who are frustrated in getting their mining plans approved in a timely way. Miners see agency interests as opposed to mining. Mining has its supporters and detractors among residents of the IV. Mining was among the first economic activities in the valley and is seen as part of the cultural fabric of living in the area. It is seen as environmentally-benign and as a legitimate source of income by many people. Many others are concerned about the effects of dredging on fish habitat and water quality.

It appears that in Josephine County today, most mining claims are individual and family oriented and small in scale. Although many people use the word “recreational” to describe such claims, miners themselves do not like the term because it implies a weakening of their rights (“The word ‘recreational’ is not in the 1872 Mining Act.”). Evidently, there are thousands of claims in Josephine County, but only a few are actually worked.

Our team was told that for mining involving front end loaders, excavators, and holding ponds, the miner has to submit a proposal to the BLM mining department. BLM has a certain amount of time to respond to the proposal and to do an environmental impact study. The response is based on the amount of disturbance anticipated. The bond BLM requires is based on the projected disturbance. Disturbance is measured in acres. If the disturbance is big enough, the State of Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries also comes in and requires their own reclamation bond with their particular guidelines. At times the agencies have different interpretations of why a bond may be defaulted. There are steps of disturbance, it is a process.

Dredging has a season and is limited to a few months for year round water flow. There are different guidelines for dredging on seasonal water flows. It's allowed when possible and not bound to specific dates. Dredging permits are about \$20 a year. The public is allowed on land surrounding dredging claims, but people can be prevented from entering patented claim areas. Patented claims are very expensive.

Mining is a popular and supported activity for many:

“I do some recreation mining, just panning and metal detecting.”

“Don’t shut down recreation mining like in California.”

“Small miners don't do much damage—these small, recreational dredgers don’t harm the streams. The biggest salmon runs were recorded when mining was in its heyday here. What is damaging are large mining operations that have been allowed to pay a reclamation fee, but the fees don’t even come close to covering the cost of reclamation.”

“How about more mining? If they are done right, they shouldn’t be destructive. There is copper and silver out there.”

“In the 1920s, hydraulic mining produced a lot of material washing into the creeks, and even with that going on, my dad and uncle told stories about catching steelhead out in the fields behind the Holland Store.”

“Dredge mining is a temporary upset to water, but doesn't destroy water quality or fish habitat. Even though some studies show it does harm water and habitat, you need to look at the source of the studies because if they have preconceived ideas, they will make the study fit their preconceptions. There are more reasons to stop dredge mining for political reasons because the environmental community is a larger voting block than the miners. Environmentalists have more political clout than miners or loggers, so the studies are interpreted to come to certain conclusions which advance environmental causes.”

“Mining is supposed to kill fish, destroying eggs or the beds. But we can only be active 3 months a year when there are no fish in there!”

Mining also causes multiple concerns with residents:

“I think mining and dredging destroys fish habitat and pollutes the rivers and streams.”

“Mining claims have to get cleaned up.”

“They just leave their anti-freeze laying out to poison animals.”

“I would be very concerned about any large scale mining like Walt Freeman's plan on Rough and Ready Creek or the Nickel Mine that was proposed by a Canadian Company on the Smith [River]. Recreation and personal dredge mining is not too bad, but if it gets too large in size and scope like bulldozers or dynamite, it seriously affects the salmon, water quality, and landscape.”

“I am concerned about mining activities on our precious rivers.”

“It can be frustrating dealing with the different agencies because of changing personnel. You talk to one person who starts the process and interprets your proposal, then you have to start the explanation all over again when there's a new person in that position which happens quite often. I don't usually have problems personally.”

“Just down in Briggs Canyon, trees are down, dredging equipment is left. It needs cleaning up.”

“You heard about that miner getting arrested? The paper said he didn't have a permit and plan but what it didn't say is that he has been waiting 18 years for approval. He wasn't even in the creek but even if he was, so what? He owns the minerals.”

“Recreation mining has been eliminated in California which resulted in a \$30 million loss, not even in the value of the minerals, but just in the local spending of the miners.”

“This spring I noticed a large mining operation up Althouse Creek that muddied the creek significantly. At another time, I was walking with a friend farther up Althouse Creek and ran

into a woman with a small mining claim who told us to leave-get off her claim. She was very rude and the area was trashed with all kinds of litter. I was under the impression that land around mining claims was still public.”

## **Law Enforcement**

“Federal law enforcement has way too much power. They are supposed to be managing our forests, not checking me out.”

“There are way too many law enforcement people out there harassing Joe Public and his family. I thought they were broke. They definitely are out of control.”

“They need to patrol public lands more to manage the problems.”

“The Fish and Game guys, or is it Forestry, is out line with giving tickets. It’s on the verge of harassment and provoked ticketing.”



## CHAPTER FIVE: THE PROSPECTS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED COLLABORATION ON PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

In these pages, people have spoken for themselves. They have told stories of their ties to the Illinois Valley, their uses of public lands, their issues with current management, and their ideas for making things better.

The descriptive phase of the IVLA is coming to an end and the coming together phase is beginning. What we learned so far is that people in the IV care deeply about public lands and are active public land users. The presence of public land, the natural beauty, the diverse resources, and the quality of air, water and wildlife habitat are major reasons for settlement of new residents and the multi-generational history of long-time residents. This social assessment of the interests and issues of IV residents regarding public land management will be distributed in the community.

The coming together phase represents an opportunity for federal land managers, IV citizens, environmental organizations and industry to integrate all interests in promoting a framework for communication and action. How shall we proceed?

In this final chapter, we include several comments from residents about their perceptions of the federal agencies and their thoughts on the prospects of our goal—bringing the world of the agencies and the world of residents together through shared communication and action. We then include a section on proposed next steps in guiding the work for the next several months.

### **On Agency Relations**

Below are statements people made about relations with agencies, as well as ideas from residents about making things better.

“I’d like them [agency personnel] to understand that they don’t own the land. The public lands are managed for the good of the people.”

“We have some real good scientists working for our public agencies. Some of those guys are very smart and know a lot about our different resources.”

“Too much is managed by the government. It is not consistent. Because the faces of the policy makers are always changing, very little positive change occurs.”

“I think they are run by the Sierra Club. Trees should be harvested like a garden.”

“Abolish the federal reserves, period.”

“We want the government to be honorable and not driven by greed.”

“I just don’t think they’ve done a very good job of conserving what we have here.”

“Agencies are too beholden to industry.”

“Whenever government says we want to help, that should be a red flag. Instead it should be, ‘We are here to listen, make no decisions, to explore what we should do.’”

“The agencies manage backwards—they manage for loggers instead of the forest and they manage for fishermen instead of the fish.”

“BLM and Forest Service have said their policy is to manage as a forest instead of a tree farm, but they are misleading the public about what sales include. For example, they average all cuts on a sale and then say the ‘average’ tree is 24", but that includes much larger trees including old growth. They are managing for profit of the timber company instead of the forest health.”

“Current management seems to think in terms of years not generations.”

“The Forest Service and BLM should merge. Merging would save money in administration costs.”

“I’m afraid the agencies still covet the old trees. They over-hype the threat of fire and it is another excuse to log public land at a subsidized price.”

“BLM is not evolving as quickly as it could. It has been slower to convert to restoration type logging.”

“BLM’s answer is always more product. They are intractable. You’d think the O and C Act called for all timber harvest but timber harvest is only one of several objectives including recreation, environmental impact.”

“I was a volunteer firefighter and worked on the fuels reduction and fire protection plan a few years back. The Forest Service and BLM did not live up to their end of the agreement. After private property owners cleared and cleaned up their property that bordered on public lands, the Forest Service and BLM were supposed to do fuels reduction around those properties. It didn’t happen. Now you’re telling me they are going to listen to proposals that come from the public?”

“BLM did an open house at the Selma Center for Deer North in 2008. The maps were not specific and we couldn’t tell what they were really proposing. That was our only communication. Then they did scoping and the EA came out in July, 2011. It seemed so similar to what came out earlier. The community alternative was ignored. It was a new group of BLM people.”

“In South Deer, BLM gave us 3600 acres or something for the community alternative, what they called the ‘natural selection alternative.’ We felt they were throwing us a bone because it was all cut over land. It was no true test of the alternative.”

“The BLM plan in Deer Mom was to leave 16 trees per acre which was not okay. Once BLM was challenged, they split up the project. They removed the stewardship stuff and it became a timber sale. The timber companies did not think it was worth bidding on.”

“There is a lack of trust that high grading is over.”

The single best way to get goodwill in Takilma is to give up timber harvest consideration near the community, especially from Waldorf Cemetery to Allan Gulch drainage.”

“People do not see a difference between the Forest Service and BLM.”

“The Forest Service resists small guys. They want big partners.”

“There are signs in Takilma that say ‘Stop BLM.’”

“The Forest Service would rather have a profit than have a healthy forest. You can’t have both. I am not optimistic anymore that they want to do the right thing.”

“Aren’t the agencies locked in their direction by Congress? Can we really influence anything at this level? Don’t they have quotas?”

“I like tours because in my experience only face-to-face on the ground is capable of raising education levels. People start with what they think are environmentally sound reasons for wanting a certain kind of approach. But once people have better information and see the goals of the project, it is easier to reach agreement.” [Forest Service staff]

“A priority for me is for BLM to develop a more creative relationship with the community. Until they get past their fear of the public and learn how to work together, they won’t get anything right.”

“The Forest Service has been very good to work with for many years, especially on recreation facilities. Mike Griffin has just been great.”

“We need better coordination between the feds and local people.”

“One of the main problems is there is no consistency. The agencies bring in some body from New Mexico or somewhere with no local knowledge and about the time they ‘get it’, they get transferred. They’re not responsive.”

“BLM has been a good neighbor to me, better than the private land owners actually. BLM doesn’t shoot off their guns day and night or leave anti-freeze laying out to poison animals.”

“I’d like to see more understanding of the issues of local communities. It is important for the federal agencies to cooperate with locals with oftentimes have more knowledge of the area and on the ground situations.”

## **On Community Relations**

“I would file a class action lawsuit against the environmental groups to reclaim lost revenue from timber harvests in Josephine County.”

“You cannot have one group capture your project or you are finished. There must be balance.”

“It is very important that they continue the process [of the Landscape Assessment] and include a broad spectrum of various interests and user groups in the planning process.”

“Get past the contentiousness.”

“Public scoping meetings used to be healthy because you would see the opposition and meet them, see each other.”

“I have not been involved in meetings for a long time. They used to get pretty heated. It is pretentious for people coming new to an area to tell long-time residents how things should be done. Old ways of doing things make sense to people born here. Things can change, but you have to understand where other residents are coming from.”

“I want public discourse with respect and civility. Don’t let the passionate dominate.”

“To get balance in the valley, we have to find a way to honor ordinary people.”

“BLM is at standstill from litigation.”

“You need to gather more input than just the same old people. You have to put out better notices so people are able to respond better. Not just the newspaper but TV and radio.”

## **On Integrating Citizen Issues and Agency Concerns**

“I would get the best loggers and the best scientists and make my judgments based on their best advice and I would listen to both.”

“Without actual community involvement, the process won't work. People have to be on the ground and actively working with agencies in the field to come up with solutions. Every acre is different so it is not always clear what needs to be done from a distance.”

“We need to come together long enough to listen to each other in order to come to the best solutions. The polarization of the past will not serve us now.”

“I am concerned about screaming matches at public meetings, but if there were constructive sessions, I would be interested in participating.” [Common]

“The logging industry and environmental industry both seem to polarize instead of finding common ground. They’re using the differences of left and right against each other. Both parties have more in common than meets the eye. We all use wood. That is a ploy of big business. Separation instead of focusing on sustainability.”

“The experts at meetings can’t be argued with. They don’t listen. I can’t go to those meetings looking for sustainable practices anymore. I will show up at demonstrations.”

“It is not OK to have strongly-held opinions without offering solutions. We must find a middle ground so that it works. We must keep people working and extract the resources we need without having to keep asking for a dole out from the government. Thinning and fire suppression will be spendy.”

“Partnerships should be mutually beneficial, not just for agency benefit.”

“Restoration as a word that is over used, a word of manipulation. You go in and treat X number of acres and think you’ve done something. Habitat is a richer concept. Habitat value is a better measurement. If you want real environmentalist buy in, you have to focus on prescriptions. You won’t have enough definition otherwise to develop the trust you need.”

“I think the work you are doing is important. I want to support it, but I don’t want to devote myself to it. I see that it can drain my time and maybe go nowhere.”

“Lomakatsi has done some projects that would be good to look at, see what we could do to use the products as well as we can, use the poles.”

“Sustainability and compromise at the management table.”

“First off, we’d treat each other with respect.”

“The goal should be to reach a sustainable point where all factions of the community are getting what they want. The community must have access to extract resources so the projects can pay for themselves. That’s the only way it works.”

“We need to continue educating people. I would make that my number one emphasis. I would continue the anti-litter campaign, anti-vandalism and good stewardship.”

“Whatever happened to let’s sit down at the table and talk about what we all want. How about some collective reasoning towards agreement?” [

“Over time, I would try to improve the public’s awareness and connection to the scientific community. There is this disconnect that is partly the scientists’ fault. They can be elitist.”

“Bring everyone together and facilitate a regular discussion with respect for all parties. Similar to the Applegate Partnership.”

I'd like to see an emphasis on outdoor etiquette with all users of public lands. Find ways to be more respectful of each other and the land in regards to noise, dust, litter, preventing fires.”

“There is some history here with advisory committees. Environmentalists will walk away—committees are a waste of time.”

## Next Steps

This report has summarized what 265 people who live and work in the Illinois Valley said about public land management—their vision, their issues and their ideas for making things better.

The purpose of the Illinois Valley Landscape Assessment is to enhance the capacity of the people of the IV, the federal agencies and the JCSG to engage in community-based collaboration on issues of natural resource management.

As we continue the Landscape Assessment process over the next 8 months, we want to draw upon the wisdom of the comments. Citizens have suggested several process considerations to build into each of the work steps. These are:

1. Our public discourse will be mutually respectful.
2. Domination by the few, by extreme voices, or by the “experts” will not be permitted.
3. We will pay attention to language, making sure there is common agreement on the use of words and making sure that our words do not obscure what will happen on the ground.
4. Continue to broaden and deepen our ties in the community so that we facilitate the opportunity for community residents to have a voice in natural resource decision-making.

The work steps we propose to get to our goal are these:

1. The Josephine County Stewardship Group and the U.S. Forest Service are hosting a two-day workshop on community-based collaboration on November 9 and 10, 2011 in Cave Junction.
2. Conduct additional Discovery work, inviting individuals and small groups to have discussions about forest management and life in the community. We want to continue to get to know people in the valley in settings comfortable to them.
3. The Landscape Assessment team is collecting agency and other scientific data regarding ecological conditions for display in GIS map format. This information will be a resource for people as they grapple with a balanced approach to forest management.
4. Facilitate and support short-lived working groups focused on the six action areas identified in this assessment.

- a. Forestry practices—there is strong support for a restoration forestry approach to land management, defined generally as a focus on thinning, reduction of fuel loads, brush removal, some canopy opening, small diameter tree harvest, and some commercial timber.
  - b. Roads and access—the most widespread sentiment expressed by residents is that access to public lands has been closed off. It seems like everyone has stories of gates blocking off roads which used to be accessible and of not understanding why. Strategies to foster greater communication and accountability regarding road closures are desired.
  - c. Off-highway vehicle use—residents are well-aware of the impacts caused by off-road vehicles. People want to address the impacts while accommodating the activity for its economic and social benefits. Some strategy to create a legal and environmentally-benign use area and to deal with abuse is desired.
  - d. Tourism and eco-tourism—most residents believe that jobs are more possible and sustainable from this economic sector than from forestry work. There is strong support in the IV for promoting longer visitor stays oriented to the diverse set of attractions the Valley has and to explore the role of public land management in making that happen.
  - e. Dumping and trash—many residents had stories of dump sites throughout the Valley on public lands and efforts to clean them up. Further, ongoing work is needed.
  - f. Market development—the interest in biomass, biochar and value-added production of forestry products is widespread but current information and opportunity are low. Residents very much believe that local livelihood from forest management should be promoted more than it is.
5. Bring in technical people as needed (GIS, wildlife, silviculture, water) to bring science and experience into the discussions. Use GIS mapping to capture interests and issues in a framework of healthy forests and communities. Technical and scientific people could be affiliated with the industry, logging companies, federal agencies, environmental organizations or academia.
  6. Foster education and action as possible throughout the process. For example:
    - a. Field trips to agency or Lomakatsi work sites to learn about current and recent projects.
    - b. Engage in periodic dialogue with the federal agencies about progress on community guidelines, integrating their management concerns into action plans. Understanding the “sideboards” of relevant laws and policies directing agency management is essential in order to make progress.

- c. Resolve emerging issues as possible, the “low hanging fruit” to build success and momentum.
- 7. Develop community guidelines for each of the action areas. Since guidelines by nature are general, develop protocols by which citizen participation is optimized at critical times such as project development, prescription development, and monitoring.