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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Tom Tuchmann
David Cottingham

FROM: Applegate group

DATE: May 10, 1993

RE: Requested paper

At our meeting Friday you asked for some draft language concerning our points. Here is a draft written as if it were a portion of the President's post-Forest Conference program.

We can provide elaboration or other material if you wish. We look forward to seeing you in Oregon later this week.

Here are contact numbers:

Dwain Cross
Croman Corp.
801 Avenue "C"
White City, OR 97503
Ofc: 503-826-4455
Home: 503-779-6204

David Ford
Western Forest Industries Assn.
1500 S.W. Taylor
Portland, OR
Ofc: 503-224-5455

Jack Shipley
1340 Missouri Flat Road
Grants Pass, OR 97527
503-846-6917

Dick Barnes
Preston Gates Ellis
& Rouvelas Meeds
1735 New York Ave. NW, #500
Washington DC 20006
Ofc: 202-628-1700
Home: 301-229-5131

Clive Whittenbury
The Erickson Group
Aerial Forest
Management Foundation
511 Trinity Avenue
Yuba City, CA 95991
Ofc: 916-671-2372
Home: 916-671-2342

DRAFT INSERT FOR ADMINISTRATION FOREST PROGRAM

Community Partnerships

The prescriptive approach taken in this program is necessary for at least the near term in light of the recent history of forest management controversy and distrust in the Pacific Northwest and Northern California. The broad level of mutual trust that would be necessary among the various interests for a more flexible approach is not yet in place. However, the Forest Conference and developments in some communities of the region offer heartening evidence that this trust is building from the ground up.

To encourage development of this mutual trust and the improved, community-centered forest management that can then result, the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management will be directed to assist the development of Community Partnership Organizations (CPO's).

The function of a CPO is to bring together a community's environmental groups, industry, business, local government, federal land management agencies and other appropriate interests to define the forest condition they desire and the community economic structure that is consistent with that desired forest condition, and then to foster those conditions and structure.

Advances in environmental knowledge and concern have brought a major change to the forest planning and management process. This change has in too many cases resulted in planning and management gridlock, often complicated by judicial actions.

This response will emphasize negotiation and consensus at the community level. A CPO will be able to develop a plan for its area with the participation of the land-owning agency as well as any other agency with responsibilities for that ecosystem, such as the Fish and Wildlife Service. This plan then will go through the established agency planning process, but with the major advantage that it already represents the consensus of the various community interests, including the relevant agencies.

The federal land management agencies will be given the flexibility to manage the area to achieve the desired forest condition, including the ability, where consistent with law, to replace prescriptive management with goal-oriented management. This is consistent with the Forest Service's move toward ecosystem management.

The land area influenced by a CPO typically will be defined by a watershed or other natural features, rather than by political boundaries. This also is consistent with ecosystem management. A typical area likely will measure in the hundreds of thousands of acres. An area too small would be inefficient

from a federal agency standpoint. An area too large would lose its sense of community.

It is vital to the community concept that the federal land management agencies assist, but not direct, the formation of CPO's. A CPO is not to be a glorified public hearing process. It is a means of community organization and a way to tap the resources that best know, and are most affected by, their forest area. The style and structure of CPO's is expected to vary, depending on community needs and culture. The federal agencies will assist through participation and encouragement, by providing technical support, and by integrating CPO policies and decisions into forest planning and management consistent with law.

Additional federal agencies, including the Department of Labor, Department of Commerce, and Small Business Administration, will be directed to join in working with CPO's in the development and implementation of economic plans for CPO areas. This could include, for example, innovative ways of contracting for forest-related services that would better serve the community. Agencies' work with CPO's is intended to supplement, not replace, existing federal, state and local programs.

A model CPO already exists in the 496,500-acre Applegate Valley of southern Oregon. The Applegate Partnership, founded in 1992, has engendered trust and cooperation between such

traditional local adversaries as environmentalists and the timber industry. It also has prompted federal agencies to work together on the ground in nontraditional ways that are consistent with this Administration's policy that natural resource agencies work in harmony, not as adversaries. Several similar organizations elsewhere in the region are in the formative stage.

This community-based approach to resource management offers not only the prospect of more positive and beneficial forest stewardship, but our best hope of avoiding in the future the devastating conflicts that have beset the region in recent years. It exemplifies the Administration's approach to reinventing government.

May 7, 1993