

# Western Legislative Forestry Task Force

COOPERATIVE ACTION ON WESTERN FORESTRY ISSUES

ESTABLISHED IN 1974



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January 17, 2006

Congressman Greg Walden  
843 East Main Street, Suite 400  
Medford, OR 97504

Dear Congressman Walden:

Enclosed for your information is a letter written by the Chairman of the Western Legislative Forestry Task Force supporting H. R. 4200, the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act of 2005.

We encourage you to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Roger A. Seiber

Jerry Deckard

Enclosure  
/egy

# Western Legislative Forestry Task Force

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December 8, 2005

Honorable Greg Walden, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health  
Committee on Resources  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden:

Western Legislative Forestry Task Force whose members are legislators from 5 western states and 2 Canadian Provinces strongly endorse your efforts to pass H.R. 4200, the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act of 2005 (FERRA). The need for timely response to the catastrophic events that we have witnessed on our national forests is the center-piece of this legislation, and it will encourage efforts for rapid restoration of the environment and utilization of damaged trees before they lose their economic value.


America's forests need this legislation to recover from catastrophic events that have plagued our forest lands in recent years and that will continue to occur in the future. With over 190 millions acres of federal forest land at extreme risk to wildfire and over 8.2 million acres of federal and state timberlands having burned in 2005 alone, along with over 1 billion board feet of timber blown down on federal forests from hurricanes Katrina and Rita, a new policy of rapid restoration is badly needed.

Too often after catastrophic events it takes our federal government two or three years to implement a recovery plan which includes any restoration and removal efforts in our national forests. Waiting this long does little to rehabilitate the forest and only adds to the problem of further deterioration and degradation of the environment, and any product that may be retrieved.

FERRA allows our public forest land managers to become better stewards by quickly assessing environmental needs following catastrophic events and rapidly implementing recovery and rehabilitation projects. Further, the bill has provisions to increase scientific research on the best methods to recover ecosystems damaged by catastrophic events.

Thank you for your continued efforts to help and promote sustainable forestry management through HR 4200. Without this common sense approach, our lands, communities, and quality of life will continue to suffer. We stand ready to help in the passage of the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act of 2005.

On behalf of all our members,

  
Clete Edmunson  
Chairman - WLFTF

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#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS**

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