

Sam Butcher Jr.



Rough & Ready Lumber LLC

P.O. Box 519
30365 Redwood Highway
Cave Junction, OR 97523
Phone (541) 592-3116
FAX (541) 592-3221

May 1, 2013

I am saddened that after my family has worked tirelessly to operate Rough & Ready Lumber for 91 years I have the painful task of closing its doors.

I thank you, Governor Kitzhaber, for your leadership in seeking an O&C solution, and I especially thank you and the state for the rapid response to assisting our devastated workers. I liken it to ODF's initial attack on fires. A crew was there immediately with an impressive array of talents and state support.

That support will help many, but an example of the stress they are suffering is our 58-year old employee and friend whose fatal heart attack last week was probably more than a coincidence.

We have worked closely with the state to urge our workers to take advantage of available programs but are having some pushback as they resist taking what they call "welfare." These fine people just want to work, and as they have always done, take responsibility for their lives.

Rough & Ready has the components of a successful business--owners who are passionate about the business and dedicated to reinvesting in the company; skilled, hardworking employees who produce beautiful products; and customers clamoring for everything we can produce. The only piece that is missing is a raw material supply. The lost economies-of-scale from running one shift versus full capacity is night and day financially, and with a federal forest around us that grows 1 billion board feet per year, we find it unacceptable that it can't support even one small sawmill in the Illinois Valley.

I urge the conservationists on this panel to recognize the people who are suffering in the Illinois Valley today, and acknowledge what a tremendous asset they are to the state of Oregon. I implore you to be less uncompromising in your approach to federal forest policy and consider your impact on an irreplaceable way of life.

Jennifer Krauss Phillippi