



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Board of Forestry

State Forester's Office

2600 State Street

Salem, OR 97310

503-945-7200

FAX 503-945-7212

TTY 503-945-7213 / 800-437-4490

<http://www.odf.state.or.us>

March 7, 2007

Ms. Marla Rae, Chair
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
3406 Cherry Avenue NE
Salem, OR 97303-4924



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

Re: Oregon Coast Coho Conservation Plan

Chair Rae and Commission Members:

We are writing this letter to convey the Board of Forestry's full support and endorsement of the Oregon Coast Coho Conservation Plan. We understand the plan will come before the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on March 16, 2007, for formal adoption. The Board and Department stand prepared to carry out the commitments and obligations made in the Plan and to provide support to forest landowners, who have been and continue to be strong leaders in implementing Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds actions.

Private forest landowners already provide many public benefits, such as sustaining watershed health, keeping the land in forest cover, and contributing to the vibrancy of rural communities. Through the Forestry Program for Oregon, the Board of Forestry supports cooperation and incentives as the preferred tools for promoting desired public benefits on private lands. We appreciate the Commission's strategy of relying on voluntary efforts for the Coho Conservation Plan.

Private and state forestland managers have made significant contributions to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The Board understands the need for continued participation to achieve the ecological and social benefits described in the conservation plan. The Board, department staff and land managers will continue to work together to maximize opportunities to improve stream complexity and floodplain connectivity, identified as key limiting factors. We support Department of Forestry participation on regional implementation teams as necessary to help achieve success and assure effective representation on the governance teams.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Hobbs, Chair
Board of Forestry

c: Marvin Brown, State Forester, Department of Forestry
Virgil Moore, Director, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife