



November 3, 2015

Oregon Department of Forestry  
Salem Headquarters  
2600 State Street  
Salem, Oregon 97310

Members of the Board of Forestry:

The Oregon Public Ports Association (OPPA) supports a management plan for the Northwest State Forests that protects the beauty and health of our forest lands while also increasing the level of active management on and revenue derived from those lands.

Oregon's 23 public ports provide recreational, commercial, and economic services to residents and businesses in Oregon and beyond, serving as state, national, and international transportation gateways. They are a key component in sustaining Oregon's economy and quality of life, supporting thousands of family wage jobs. One out of six Oregon jobs is directly or indirectly tied to cargo, recreation, industrial, commercial or other activities at Oregon's ports.

Several of our members, particularly those ports along the North Coast, receive revenue disbursements from timber harvests on state lands. The Board of Forestry's plan for the future of the Northwest State Forests will, therefore, impact our members and the communities in which they operate.

The North Coast ports (Port of Astoria, Port of Alsea, Port of Garibaldi, Port of Nehalem, Port of Newport, Port of Tillamook, Port of Toledo and Port of Siuslaw) are vital economic engines for rural Oregon communities. We would argue that, in the face of the region's dwindling natural resource economy, the significance of the ports' economic role has been enhanced. The following combined **North Coast** port figures speak to that effect:

- Total port related Oregon employment of 9,585 jobs (5,194 direct and 4,392 indirect/induced)
- Oregon output (gross sales) of nearly \$1.3 billion, Oregon GDP of nearly \$605 million, and Oregon labor income of \$384 million
- Annual local and state of Oregon tax revenue/payments of \$58 million (\$17.5 M local and \$40.8 M in state tax revenues)
- Each \$1,000 in annual property tax revenues collected by the Oregon's North Coast Ports (combined) supports/retains 4.7 jobs in Oregon, of which 3.7 are located in

Port Districts and 1.0 is located elsewhere in the State of Oregon.

There are many challenges our member Ports face, not the least of which is the constant need to maintain, improve and/or build infrastructure. The funds our members receive through timber harvests on state lands will not cover the costs of multi-million capitol projects, but they do make a critical difference. In tight budgetary times, any additional funding stream is welcome and greatly needed. Any addition in timber revenue that may be gained from a new forest management plan will help Oregon Ports better serve in their mission as an economic driver for rural Oregon communities.

The benefits our members will experience from a forest management plan that expands economic outcomes extend beyond the direct dollars they will receive. An increase in active management will result in increased jobs that will help expand the local tax bases that fund Oregon public ports. Increased active management may also result in increased business opportunities for our Port members, which, as we cited above, will have significant economic benefits at the local and state level.

We are fully supportive of efforts to arrive at an equitable management solution for the Northwest State Forest Lands that takes into account conservation goals along with the economic needs of rural Oregon communities and our entire state.

Thank you for your consideration of our input.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



Mark J. Landauer  
Executive Director  
Oregon Public Ports Association