

April 27, 2016

Oregon Board of Forestry  
Tillamook Community College  
Tillamook, Oregon 97141

Re: Public Meeting comments

Dear Board of Forestry;

My name is Ted Chu. I own a home and live full time in Nehalem.

There are extensive corporate timber lands in Tillamook and Clatsop counties. They receive maximum exploitation, obvious to anyone driving the coast highway. While this produces jobs and revenue it also causes problems and creates expenses for the rest of us. Concerns include herbicide spray drift, sedimentation and other impacts to our water supplies, most recently for Rockaway Beach. My neighbors and I rely on a small stream that heads partially on state and partially on private land for our culinary water. With every significant storm the Nehalem River runs mud and there is high concern in our community regarding the filling of Nehalem Bay with sediment from this unnaturally heavy runoff load. We all currently face a possible million dollar fine for not complying with the Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Program.

Timber contributes to county coffers, but so do taxes paid by commercial fishermen, fishing guides and the recreation and tourist industries. These are real jobs too all of which are dependent on healthy watersheds. Tillamook county property owners pay approximately 60% of the average Oregon property tax rate. I support paying up to 100% of the state average if that increase will be used to proportionately reduce the exploitation of our public lands.

Our state and national lands are the only sizable multiple use sanctuaries or reserves remaining here. They are the only lands available for balanced, not solely for profit management. They host salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout, and provide solitude and a wide range of recreation for our citizens. They produce the clean cold water that we and other north coast species require and that is increasingly threatened.

To offset the high rate of logging on private lands I recommend the clear priority for our public lands management should be to sustain and restore comprehensive ecosystem health, not piecemeal but for the entire coast range. To be effective, assessing ecosystem health must factor in the activities on and condition of surrounding and interspersed private land - in other words the whole ecosystem. This will require the public lands be managed with a much gentler hand than the private lands currently are.

Sincerely,  
Ted Chu  
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