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From: BROWN Marvin D

Sent: Friday, April 17, 2009 4:56 PM

To: ALL FORESTRY

Dear Fellow Employees,

Our Executive Team has been doing an excellent job keeping everyone informed as we go through the legislative session, but I wanted to take the opportunity to offer this update myself.

We have been working hard with stakeholders, legislators and others to provide a clear understanding of the impact potential budget cuts may have, and I believe that message is being heard by key folks.

That doesn't mean all of our problems are solved, but the first step in this process is to have good understanding among the decision makers, and we and the stakeholders are being successful in that effort.

I've had good discussions with the Full Ways and Means Committee Co-Chairs, plus a number of other full committee members, plus all of our Ways and Means sub-committee members, the Governor and the Governor's staff. Other members of the Executive Team have also been having productive communications with the people who need to hear our message.

They understand the risks that are created by the proposed cuts to the fire program and we are now starting to build on that message by talking about the impacts on the private forests program and the state forests program.

As I'm assure you're aware, the legislature is not in a position to do much about the state forests program, and as a result Nancy will be sending out information on how they intend to proceed with cuts. I think it is likely, though, that current balances in the state forests revenue account will not be proposed for other uses and this will allow a bit more breathing room for state forests.

We also got word today on the federal stimulus dollars we'll be receiving for forest health and restoration. This includes \$2.7 million for sudden oak death, \$2.2 million for state forest projects and what looks like even more substantial amounts for private lands projects. In addition, we have had several commitments to develop cooperative agreements around ODF personnel helping to implement projects on federal lands.

The stimulus dollars won't be on there yet, but all other details around our budget proposals can be found on the website <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/budgetdevelopment.shtml>.

In terms of other legislation, the bill to update our fire protection land classification process has been passed and signed into law. We are making some headway on our land acquisition authority bill. A joint resolution recognizing the good work of the Federal Forests Advisory Committee is going forward. Also moving along is language that would create a "transfer of development rights" tool within the land use system that could help forest landowners realize better economic values from their land.

As in past sessions, there have also been several discussions and proposals around the mandates and expectations for state forests. The Board of Forestry will be meeting on a special conference call

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Monday to discuss these measures and to act on my recommendation to create an official Board position in opposition to such changes.

Another thing I should update you on is Clark Seely's retirement. We have decided not to move forward with hiring Clark's replacement as quickly as originally planned. Clark still intends to retire at the end of June and Paul Bell will still be promoted to Associate State Forester, but Clark has agreed to stay on in a full-time temporary capacity as Administrative Division Chief until the end of the year. This will allow us to continue drawing on Clark's experience and leadership until things are much better sorted out on the budget.....and I really appreciate Clark's willingness to do this for us.

So..... everyone remember to keep your head up.....feel free to get our messages in front of whomever you think is appropriate.....and know that we're all working hard to get to the best place we can.

Marvin Brown