



September 9, 2015

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

Members of the Board of Forestry:

On behalf of the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA), we encourage this Board to arrive at a solution for the management of the State's Northwest Forests that maximizes the revenue that flows to Oregon schools.

COSA serves and represents more than 2,000 school administrators, managers and executives. COSA was founded in 1974 to give Oregon's education leaders a united voice in helping to shape public policy for the betterment of our schools and our students.

As the Board of Forestry is well aware, the Common School Fund is an important funding component for Oregon schools. State resources that feed into local school district revenues and the Common School Fund, including state forests, must be managed with the object of obtaining the greatest benefit for the people of this state, consistent with sound conservation practices.

It is, therefore, alarming to see our state forests struggle to remain financially solvent. Every dollar counts in education funding and dollars not generated by our state forests are dollars lost for school improvements, new teachers, and new program development. By that same token, every dollar from the state general fund that must go to subsidize the Board of Forestry and its operations are dollars that can be going to Oregon schools and students.

It is critical, that the Board of Forestry adopt a workable management plan for the Northwest State Forests so that we are not faced with another Elliot situation where the proposed large-scale sale of state forests land is necessary in order to make the resource pencil out. We applaud efforts to settle upon a management plan that enhances conservation outcomes while also increasing the amount of revenue distributed to Oregon schools and communities.

Our members consistently strive to offer more to their students in budget situations that are ever evolving and always challenging. Ensuring a sustained contribution increase to local school districts and the Common School Fund from state forest lands will not be enough to address all the challenges our schools face, but it will help.

We support this Board's efforts to arrive at a management plan for the Northwest State Forests that will ensure a sustainably productive resource that will continue benefit our Oregon schools.

Sincerely,



Chuck Bennett

Director of Government Relations, COSA