



Attachment I Memorandum

To: Board of Forestry Subcommittee on Forest Management Alternatives

From: Liz Dent, State Forests Division Chief

Cc: Doug Decker, State Forester

Date: 8/28/15

Re: Social Benefits of State Forests Management

State Forest lands are managed to attain the Greatest Permanent Value (GPV), which means "...healthy productive and sustainable forest ecosystems that over time and across the landscape provide a full range of social, economic, and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon." The management of State Forest lands provides a variety of social benefits to Oregonians. These social benefits accrue not only to the people residing in the local communities, but can also provide significant benefits to residents of other Oregon communities, especially Portland and the Willamette Valley. Some of the social benefits are derived directly from the harvest of timber, while others are provided for by the availability of opportunities provided by the forests.

Timber harvest provides benefits by generating revenue to the counties and local taxing districts, which is used for funding county services and schools. The harvest of timber also creates jobs, both in the forest (e.g. fallers, haulers, road builders) and at local mills. A report by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute¹ states 10.88 direct jobs are created for every million board feet (mmbf) of harvest, "logging and other timber management activities create direct economic impacts, such as logging and tree-planting jobs, and also indirect and induced impacts, as timber industries buy supplies and workers spend their paychecks. Timber management activities on northwest Oregon state forests ripple through the economy. Their economic impacts include effects on employment, personal income, taxes, and revenues returned to schools, counties, and local governments."

In addition to the social benefits provided by the extraction of timber, there are benefits from using the forests for recreation. State forest lands are used extensively for fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, biking, off-highway vehicles, photography, and education and interpretation. Users participating in these recreation opportunities benefit from the trails, streams, campgrounds, and roads available on State Forests. Recreation users often spend money in the local communities, which, like timber harvest, generates direct and indirect jobs and income.

The State Forests Division also provides social benefits through the administration of two programs, the South Fork Inmate Camp (SFIC) and the JE Schroeder Seed Orchard. The SFIC is funded by the State

¹ OFRI Forest Report 2012

http://oregonforests.org/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/OFRI_Forest_Report_2012_0.pdf

Forests Division and resides on the Tillamook State Forest. Inmates at the camp work on a multitude of forest management tasks, including fire suppression, maintenance of recreation facilities, tree-planting, and young stand management. Inmates from the SFIC have been shown to have a lower recidivism rate and gain skills that greatly improve the chances for acquiring a family-wage job upon release, which is a significant public benefit to the people of Oregon.

State Forests and productive forest landowners (collectively, the cooperators) oversee the agency-owned and operated J.E. Schroeder Seed Orchard. The cooperators share the costs, responsibilities and benefits – the improved seeds tailored to specific regions for growing resilient forests. As a cooperator owning one-third of the investment and benefits, the State Forests Division plays a critical role ensuring Oregon continues growing healthy forests.

Other important social benefits include the protection of cultural and scenic resources. Scenic and cultural resources are provided additional considerations during timber sale planning and operations, to ensure the public values associated with these resources are protected. Some of the social values provided by State Forests are unlikely to change with plan alternatives (e.g., cultural resource protection, seed orchard), while others may be impacted by harvest levels (e.g., jobs in the forest).