



## **Council of Forest Trust Land Counties**

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1201 Court St. NE Ste. 300

Salem, OR 97301-4110

Tel (503) 585-8351

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### **COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONER TIM JOSI, CHAIR OF THE FOREST TRUST LAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Please ignore the letterhead of my testimony. There is no Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee letterhead. However, the CFTLC Board members are the members of FTLAC.

#### **Alternatives to Take Avoidance for management of State Forests:**

At our FTLAC meeting of October 21<sup>st</sup> we were provided an update on details of engagement by the Department of Forestry on two alternatives to Take Avoidance for management of state forests. The alternatives may be less expensive to administer than Take Avoidance and provide more certainty for active management, thus creating a better opportunity for ODF to recover financial viability.

FTLAC is cautious about alternatives to Take Avoidance. In the past, NOAA Fisheries demonstrated a lack of flexibility when negotiating a Habitat Conservation Plan with ODF and the Trust Counties. The benefits of an HCP were outweighed by the associated management costs. Both ODF and the Trust Counties agreed that an HCP would have been a poor business decision.

#### **Safe Harbor Agreement:**

FTLAC understands the disadvantages of Take Avoidance as a management regime to protect listed species. For this reason, we approached the details of the Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA) recently put in place at the Western Lane District with an open mind.

As you know, the SHA is a short-term experiment involving the removal of Barred Owls and its effect on Spotted Owl survival. The SHA removes the risk of additional management encumbrances if Spotted Owl numbers increase within the Barred Owl removal areas.

We are concerned about the long-term impact on forest management once the SHA is terminated. We are also skeptical about the true value of the Barred Owl removal program due to the continued inflow of these non-native birds.

#### **Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances:**

ODF is exploring a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) as a second alternative to Take Avoidance for reintroduction of the Pacific fisher. The CCAA requires

landowners to remove or reduce threats to a species that may be listed, but with the assurance that additional regulations will not be imposed if the species is listed. We support this CCAA.

**Senate Bill 202 (2015) report by Barbara Bond:**

At our FTLAC meeting we were briefed on the findings of the legislatively established task force under Senate Bill 202 (2015). The task force was directed to evaluate the needs and merits of a state-level independent science panel to consider questions that relate to broad, state-wide natural resource policy discussions. While this is not on your agenda today, I would like to provide our impression of this work.

We have members, including me, who share deep concerns about natural resources issues and findings by independent scientific reviews that have appeared to demonstrate a bias. However, the Task Force recommendation resulted in a thorough vetting of the issues and concerns our members share.

We should not be afraid of good science if properly applied. Now we need to insure that independent scientific reviews are properly funded and applied with the appropriate checks and balances.

**State Forest District updates**

FTLAC is pleased to receive reports on current events from your State Forest Districts.

For example, West Oregon illustrated how it efficiently adjusted to ice damage that has impacted their annual harvest plans for the last three years. And the Astoria District helped to plan a community leaders tour for Clatsop County that highlighted the role forest management contributes to economic well-being and restoration.

I will say again on behalf of FTLAC, you have a remarkable staff. We're very pleased to have Peter Daugherty as our new State Forester. He attended our meeting and we appreciated his comments.



Tim Josi  
CFTLC & FTLAC Chair