



Chair Imeson, State Forester Daugherty, members of the board, for the record my name is Seth Barnes and I am the Director of Forest Policy at the Oregon Forest & Industries Council.

Thank you for allowing time for public comment regarding State Forests today. There is a lot to talk about, it has been quite a while since the board has engaged on this topic. Now that this contract has been fulfilled, and you have ESSA's report in hand, I would encourage the Board and the Department to reengage in this topic with a renewed sense of urgency.

In fact, it has been over a year since discussions regarding the revision of the FMP have been happening at all. In the meantime, the forest continues to grow, the departments reserves continue to shrink, and the county services continue to suffer. You'll remember, as I do, the many testimonies we heard from county officials, sherriff's, principals, superintendents, medical aid professionals, and fire chiefs, who came before you, urging you to prioritize revenues from these forests, and the needs for these vital community services. I look forward to a renewed focus on this task.

To that end, I want to highlight some numbers that concern me, and I think they should be concerning to you as well. Recently OFIC received copies of a table that was prepared by ODF staff to illustrate changes made based on some of the recommendations from the ESSA report. The table I'm referring to was included in a PowerPoint presentation, and may likely be shared with you today. I've included a copy of the table in my written comments for you to refer to.

- The first table was derived using the numbers available within the 2006 H&H Report.
- The second table was provided by ODF staff in a recent PowerPoint illustrating the changes in inventory with ESSA recommendations incorporated.
- See the two tables attached; 'Pages D-6 from the 2006 H&H Report Showing Unavailable Acres under FMP with Take Avoidance Strategy' and '2017 ODF PowerPoint Summary of Available Acres'.

We compiled the information from the H&H report to put it in a similar format to compare the discrepancy in the numbers. Both tables speak to the available or 'operable' acres and unavailable acres within the six districts of the NW state forests. When you compare the percentage of the landbase set aside as unavailable back in 2006 to the percentage that was reported last week there is a large discrepancy; 14% as opposed to 31%. That equates to roughly 100,000 acres moving into the unavailable

category since 2006! Is this the cost of practicing structure based management for 10 years? That is a very significant number; several hundreds of millions of dollars in lost value. I would highly encourage the board to ask for an explanation of how that came to be, as well as a detailed breakdown of what is being considered "unavailable". The inventory, growth and yield, together with the acres available for harvest are the foundation of any forest management plan.

As the board looks to re-focus attention on a revision of the NW Forest Management Plan, it's important to establish a clear and transparent process. With all that is swirling about on this topic (ESSA report, new models, HCP talks, etc.), now more than ever we need that clear and transparent process. I urge the board to take steps to direct the department accordingly.

Thank you.

Pages D-6 through D-16 from 2006 H&H Report Showing Unavailable Acres under FMP with HCP & Take Avoidance Strategy

District	Total Acres	Operable Acres	% Operable Acres	Unavailable Acres	% Unavailable Acres*
Astoria	136,928.00	124,928.00	91.24%	12,000.00	8.76%
Forest Grove	114,944.00	96,333.00	83.81%	18,611.00	16.19%
Tillamook	250,652.00	206,017.00	82.19%	44,635.00	17.81%
North Cascades	47,723.00	41,426.00	86.81%	6,297.00	13.19%
West Oregon	37,652.00	35,075.00	93.16%	2,577.00	6.84%
Western Lane	25,959.00	21,895.00	84.34%	4,064.00	15.66%
Total (Including Roads)	613,858.00	525,674.00	85.63%	88,184.00	14.37%

*Note: A Total of 2.6% of the 14.37% in Unavailable Acres are in Road Rights-of-Way (Amounts to 16,010 Acres)

District	Total Acres	Operable Acres	% Operable Acres	Unavailable Acres	% Unavailable Acres*
Astoria	131,970.00	105,572.00	80.00%	26,398.00	20.00%
Forest Grove	111,711.00	82,972.00	74.27%	28,739.00	25.73%
Tillamook	246,264.00	160,529.00	65.19%	85,735.00	34.81%
North Cascades	46,057.00	34,605.00	75.14%	11,452.00	24.86%
West Oregon	35,422.00	23,133.00	65.31%	12,289.00	34.69%
Western Lane	24,702.00	16,499.00	66.79%	8,203.00	33.21%
Total (Net of Roads)	596,126.00	423,310.00	71.01%	172,816.00	28.99%
Total (Including Roads)	612,136.00	423,310.00	69.15%	188,826.00	30.85%

*Note: If Road Rights-of-Way were included as in the H & H Summary above, the % Unavailable Acres would amount to 30.85% (See Below)

