

FOREST TRUST LAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Testimony to the Board of Forestry July 25, 2017

For the record I am Clatsop County Commissioner Kathleen Sullivan, testifying before you on behalf of the Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee. I am speaking on behalf of Chair Josi, who could not make it today.

FTLAC met July 14th. The meeting was productive as always. We take very seriously our role of keeping informed of the state and direction of the Board and Department of Forestry, and offering advice to you to ensure better outcomes.

FTLAC has comments on a few items.

- We recognize the critical importance of the Trask Paired Watershed Study. It has already proven its worth. The Forest Management Plan Revision and any projects undertaken on the ground need to be rooted in science, and this study has the potential of providing a trove of useful information.
- We support the State Forest Division's business improvement work. It was described to us and we feel that the focus is where it belongs. We understand that this is an internal process, not policy-making, but offer our agreement that district/commissioner meetings have been an effective venue for these types of conversations.
- FTLAC will state again that it is very important that the Forest Management Plan Revision not be sidetracked by additional analysis.
- Regarding forest planning, we support ODF's effort to focus the Board's attention on policy decisions rather than specific technical issues about data, calculations, and models.
- Having said that, FTLAC is anxious to ensure that the data, assumptions, and modeling processes lead to a credible projection of outputs, costs, and revenues of future forest management. Previous forest management decisions have been made with incomplete or inadequate analysis, and none of us want to repeat that.
- We are committed to engaging with the ODF planning team.

understand the analytical basis for any proposed changes to the forest management plan, and will seek opportunities to provide our assistance to ODF planners directly.

- State Forester Peter Dougherty discussed with us the process he is using to explore the viability of an HCP from a business perspective. He stated that the Take Avoidance protocol is becoming increasingly more difficult to create economic certainty for the Trust Counties and the Department's economic viability.
- Also discussed are the preparations being made by ODF in anticipation of the Solar Eclipse on August 21. Forest logging operations will be curtailed due to traffic and fire concerns.

Thank you for receiving FTLAC comments.