

Dear Board Of Forestry:

I am a full time resident and homeowner in Tillamook County. I am a fishery and wildlife biologist by passion and profession now largely retired. I live in the Coal Creek Drainage of the Nehalem River and part of the watershed which provides culinary water for myself and my neighbors is on state forest land. As you develop a new Forest Management Plan please consider the following points.

1. The Tillamook and Clatsop State forests are surrounded by and intermingled with extensive private forest properties. These have been and will continue to be managed for maximum short rotation profit. The environment consequences of this type of intensive management will receive token consideration at best.
2. Watershed and ecosystem boundaries rarely follow property ownership lines. If consideration for ecosystem and watershed health is to be factored in to state forest management, activities on the adjacent private lands must be analyzed as part of the whole. Consequently in most cases it will be necessary to manage state lands in a far more sensitive manner to provide balance to the extreme management occurring on the adjacent private timber lands.
3. State Forest Lands support more than just the timber industry. Fishing both commercial and sport is big business providing many real jobs in Tillamook and Clatsop counties. Clean cold water in our anadromous fish streams is the key to sustaining this valuable industry. With climate change progressing, clean cold water for both fish and people is probably the forest's most valuable crop now and it certainly will be in the future. Timber harvest degrades water quality and reduces water yield. Accelerated short rotation timber management maximizes such degradation. Our bays and estuaries are silting in as a result.

A modern state forest management plan should prioritize and be driven by ecosystem and watershed health considerations and by extension the health and wellbeing of the human residents of Oregon. The needs of county or state budgets should never drive resource management or timber harvest targets on public lands. The FTLAC is a single issue lobbying group which does not represent all the residents in the counties with state public land although they may act as though they do. There needs to be a balancing group representing other interests provided equal access to the Board of Forestry.

Sincerely,
Ted Chu