

Board of Forestry, April 25, 2018, Kathleen Sullivan, Clatsop County Forestry Representative

Good morning/afternoon. I'm Clatsop County Commissioner Kathleen Sullivan, Clatsop's forestry representative.

My comments today represent Clatsop County. As you know, the other members of FTLAC will currently not weigh in on changes to the FMP or important issues like the HCP because of the Linn County lawsuit they joined against the State of Oregon and the Oregon Dept. of Forestry.

Citizens of our county have repeatedly expressed to our commission how important the Clatsop State Forest is to them, largely because Clatsop County, unlike most of the other trust counties, has virtually no other public forest land. Only 1% of our county is federal forestland.

Clatsop Citizens have sent clear messages to our commission over the last several years: they want a balanced forest plan that maintains an active timber program but that also helps restore endangered species, restores salmon habitat, and provides a recreation program reflective of Clatsop Forest's large financial contribution to the state. Residents and visitors alike value the opportunity to recreate in the forest using the very limited trails and campground facilities that are currently provided with the Clatsop State Forest.

We want our forest policies to reflect the long term interests of our county. We are asking for harvest only at sustainable levels to reduce the chance of the drastically changing timber revenue patterns we have experienced in the past. Our citizens are also concerned about aerial spraying of pesticides.

Clatsop strongly supports an HCP as a critical first step before any revisions to the FMP are considered, because we are concerned about both the security of our timber revenues and the protection of critical habitats.

We recognize that harvest in Clatsop Forest provides a significant part of the revenue that supports ODF operations, but boosting harvest levels is not the solution to these fiscal problems. We want to work alongside ODF to look for new funding mechanisms and to urge the State Legislature to help us find revenue alternatives to more intensive harvest.

Thank you for your service on the Board and for considering the views of Clatsop County. A special thank you to Sybil Ackerman Munson for her exemplary service to the State on the Board of Forestry.