

Oregon Board of Forestry  
2600 State St  
Salem, Or 97310

April 25, 2018

Re: State Forest Management Plan Revision

Dear Board of Forestry;

I am a full time resident in the Nehalem River drainage where I own a home. Part of the small watershed that provides drinking water for myself and least four other families is state forest. Additionally the state forest provides me solitude, recreation and food in the form of elk, deer and salmon. They support our local economy and provide real jobs in tourism, recreation, sport and commercial fishing.

The state forest in our area is surrounded and intermingled by private commercial forest land which is being harvested at a high rate for maximum profit. Slopes that a person can hardly stand on are being subjected to huge clearcuts. These areas are managed as short rotation plantations. There will not be old growth or even mature forests on these lands ever again. Only on public lands can trees be allowed to grow majestic.

The terms state forest and private commercial forest are often used as if they are completely different areas but they are parts of the same forest. Watersheds and ecosystems do not follow property lines. With this in mind I request and recommend the new forest guidelines require analysis of the impacts of timber harvest and associated activities such as roading on our public lands be done on an ecosystem or at least on a watershed basis superceeding property boundaries. In simplified terms if it is determined that 50% of a salmon bearing watershed can be safely, sustainably logged and 50% of that watershed is private and has been totally clearcut then none of the public forest can be cut if there is any hope of maintaining salmon there.

I mentioned deer and elk and it is often argued that timber cutting provides good habitat for them and it's true that after 2-3 years when the effects of intense herbicide use dissipates they do provide foraging habitat. From what I know and observe as a wildlife biologist with 30 years of field experience working with deer and elk that habitat component is not lacking in our area, in part as a result of the extensive short rotation management of private timber lands.

Under science based wise management our temperate rainforests can provide a variety of sustainable benefits. Timber harvest on these lands should always be driven by the overarching goal of ecosystem health, not by agency or county budget needs. New ways and sources of funding may need to be found for agencies. Several Oregon counties with large public parcels enjoy property tax rates far below the state average. Oregonians living in counties where they pay property taxes at or above the state average should not have to subsidize these counties.

Our public forest land should be managed to meet the changing needs of our times, our people and our climate. They are state forests, not county forests. They are the last resort for solitude, endangered species including coho salmon and steelhead, and the cool clean water that sustains them and us.

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