

Chair Imeson, Members of the Board

My name is Jason Gonzales, and I live in Walton Oregon, where I am surrounded by Industrial forestlands and ODF owned forests. I am the Forest and Watershed Campaign Organizer for Oregon Wild, and am here today on behalf of Oregon Wild's 20,000 members and supporters.

Like many of the rural and coastal Oregonians I work with on a day to day basis - My family relies on a small forest stream for our household water, we rely on healthy forests to prove themselves strong and resilient in the face of changing weather patterns with storms intensified by climate change, and we rely on forest diversity to provide our food, recreation, and even sometimes entertainment. But everyday, the profits of a select few corporations, increasingly owned by Wall Street investment firms, are put before our communities needs, and the behaviors and practices of those corporations directly threaten the forest and stream health me and my neighbors are so reliant on.

Working and living in Oregon's Coast Range, I constantly hear concerns from community members about the impacts of industrial logging on private and state lands in their local communities. They tell me that their streams have been damaged by rampant clearcutting and aerial spray and by grossly inadequate or non-existent buffering of streams. They tell me about the loss of fish where they always were, about the diminishing bird-song, about the landslides and erosion threatening homes and harming shellfish in the bay's. And living in the midst of Oregon's industrial timberlands, I see these things every day with my own eyes.

In recent years, research from Oregon State University and other places has consistently validated our concerns and proven that the status quo is completely unacceptable - In the past few years, studies have been released with the following findings:

- On average, 74% of Oregon's stream network lacks any protection from clearcut logging under Oregon's outdated Forest Practices Act. This percentage goes as high as 84% in some watersheds.
- Clearcutting and monocropped tree farms cause years of dangerous peak flows followed by decades of reduced flow - with stream experiencing as much as a 50% reduction in summer flows.
- Even aged, mono-cropped stands hold summer temperatures 5 degrees hotter than healthy, diverse forests.
- Clearcut logging and wood processing releases up to 85% of a forests stored carbon, leaving only 15% of the carbon actually stored in wood products.
- The best way for Oregon to address our #1 emitter of climate changing emissions is to reduce public lands logging by half, and require 90 year rotations on public lands.

Additionally - economists have regularly shown that tourism and recreation such as fishing are much larger economic drivers than clearcutting for Oregon's rural economies, and that public lands, like State Forests, offer higher economic rewards to local communities if they are highly protected from industrial extraction.

It is with these facts in mind that I ask this board to stop putting corporate profits over the needs of Oregonians, especially our rural communities. Oregon's forests should be managed to provide not only logs for local mills, but also abundant clean water for local communities, carbon storage so that future generations may thrive, and fish and wildlife habitat so our children don't have to visit a museum to learn what Salmon looked like.

Oregonians deserve better than clearcut watersheds that are sprayed from the sky with dangerous, unstudied combinations of chemicals that destroy native wildlife habitat. We deserve working forests that don't destroy watersheds, and State Forests that focus on providing services, including ecosystem services like clean cool water and carbon storage, to all Oregonians. Everyone with the power to do so, including this board, must take action now to ensure a live-able future for our communities. Thank you for your time.