



April 25, 2018

Tom Imeson, Chair
Board of Forestry

Re: Trout Unlimited Comments on State Forest Management Plan Proposed Guiding Principles
(Agenda item 7)

Dear Chair Imeson and Members of the Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on the Proposed Guiding Principles for the State Forest Management Plan. My name is Chandra Ferrari and I am Oregon Senior Policy Advisor for Trout Unlimited (TU), a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of cold-water fishes, such as trout and salmon, and their habitats. Trout Unlimited has more than 300,000 members and supporters nationwide including over 3,000 in Oregon.

While I am new to the State Forest conversation, TU is not. You may remember Tom Wolf, recently retired, who has testified to you often in the past on state forest management issues.

TU is especially concerned with state forest management because many of our members regularly fish and recreate in waterways and forests encompassed by the Forest Management Plan. Streams like the Trask, Nehalem, Wilson, Kilchis, and Miami all support strong fisheries and have significant blocks of state forest land. The fish produced from these streams help support a robust fishing and recreation economy along the North Coast and elsewhere. These fish provide multiple benefits to us; unfortunately, we ask a lot of them...that they continue to persist and thrive despite an increasingly narrow range of suitable habitat conditions. Their numbers have dropped significantly from historic abundance numbers in response.

We recognize that we are not the only stakeholders in the room, and we appreciate that the Guiding Principles presented for consideration include recognition of the need for restoration and conservation on state lands.

However, we are struck by the fact that while the state forest program is enjoying high levels of harvest and revenue, it is simultaneously operating on short staff, focusing on high value sales, and deferring needed investment in the forest. There seems to be a structural problem.

We recommend that the Board, and your guiding principles, embrace an effort to incrementally disconnect select state forest lands from harvest pressure. We commend to you a Trust Land

Transfer program¹, such as that created in Washington State, where they have invested \$900 million over time to compensate trust counties and protect special areas.

Moreover, because the public broadly benefits from many aspects of state forests, we support efforts to diversify the sources of public support for the forests. We believe revenue diversification should also be a core principle that you embrace.

Given the high rates of harvest, we think further increasing the cut to address financial viability is unlikely to provide a sustainable solution that is friendly to our fish runs, or to the broader public, where concern about clearcutting and pesticide use on public lands continues to grow.

We thus strongly encourage you to make the case to the public for a new direction. Our members would welcome the opportunity to work with you on a new approach.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment today and we look forward to working with the Board, the Department and other stakeholders as this process proceeds.



Chandra Ferrari
Oregon Senior Policy Advisor
cferrari@tu.org
(916) 214-9731

¹ See more here: https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/amp_tlt_program_17_19.pdf