



April 25, 2018

Oregon Board of Forestry

Good afternoon Chair and members of the Board,

My name is Gabe Scott, I am In-House Counsel with Eugene-based Cascadia Wildlands, a regional non-profit conservation organization representing 10,000 members and supporters. Cascadia Wildlands defends and restores Cascadia's wild ecosystems in the forests, in the courts, and in the streets. We envision vast old-growth forests, rivers full of salmon, wolves howling in the backcountry, and vibrant communities sustained by the unique landscapes of the Cascadia bioregion.

We are here today to ask the Board to consider a different, long-term future for Oregon's Board of Forestry lands, specifically a future that does not entirely hinge on industrial clearcutting and mandated timber targets. We are concerned that this approach will bring management of these lands into inevitable conflict with federal environmental laws. Already there have been conflicts with federally listed species and water quality standards, and given that federal protections for these public values are declining, an increasing burden is going to be placed on state lands.

While the draft guiding principles speak of risk management and diversification of assets and income streams, it is abundantly clear from the draft documents thus far that all of the eggs are going into the industrial forestry basket. Any hope of predictability or consistent income will be lost as soon as the first suit is filed. We believe an approach that is almost entirely dependent on large scale industrial logging to pay for 98% of the Department of Forestry's expenses sets this agency up for failure and is dishonest to those employees whose futures hang in the balance.

That is not to say that logging cannot play a role in the management of these lands, the obvious outcome for these lands is a Habitat Conservation Plan, and we are encouraged to see the Board continue down this path. But while such a Plan is pursued, the Board cannot reliably depend on timber targets. Instead, the Board should be pursuing diverse outcomes for these forests including. Specifically, here the recreation opportunities for the forests outside of Portland are immense and completely disregarded. The guiding principles fail entirely to mention climate change, despite its prioritization by the Governor's office. These forests could serve as carbon storage vehicles, critical offsets and mitigation for the state's other carbon producing activities. The opportunities here are many, but we fear they are being squandered by a regime solely dependent on unrealistic timber targets. We want to help the Board and the Department of Forestry realize this future for these lands, lands that are supposed to be managed for the Greatest Permanent Value for all Oregonians. That is why we are here today and will continue to be involved in the future.

Thank you.