



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Forestry

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"STEWARDSHIP
IN FORESTRY"

August 31, 2016

The Honorable Kate Brown
Governor's Office
State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Governor Brown:

The Oregon Board of Forestry has reviewed and approved the Department of Forestry's 2017-2019 Agency Request Budget, and submits it to you with this letter. This budget supports the Board's and Department's mission, legal responsibilities, and obligations to the people of Oregon. It strives to serve our state by protecting, managing, and promoting the sound stewardship of our forests, in turn producing a broad range of sustainable economic, environmental and social benefits.

The budget reflects a spirit of innovation and strong links to several of your major focus areas. It also reflects input from our stakeholders, who were given several opportunities to appear before the board. All of the policy option packages we are proposing receive positive feedback from stakeholders during this process, with no negative comments. In the Fire Protection program, this budget seeks adequate resources to respond to the impacts of three consecutive severe fire seasons and assures readiness forward, including investments in supplemental firefighting resources as well as support for a growing number of rangeland protection associations in eastern Oregon. In the State Forests Division, the budget proposes public funding for public benefits that are provided by state forests, including recreation, education and interpretation resources and facilities. In the Private Forests Division, this budget proposes resources to strengthen administration of the Forest Practices Act, including capacity to meet forestry challenges in wildland/urban interface areas. The budget proposes to make permanent Oregon's unique investment in increasing the pace, scale and quality of restoration work in Oregon's federal forests. The budget also proposes funding for restoration of the historic State Forester's Building, on which the Department has deferred maintenance for decades.

Throughout, the budget represents a commitment to healthy working forests, actively managed according to sound science and forward-looking policy. In recent years, the Board and the Department have made substantial progress in strategic planning, and in aligning budget development with overarching priorities and needs. Accordingly, this budget reflects thoughtful selection of proposals that move our work forward.

We are pleased to offer this budget to you and look forward to answering any questions you or your staff may have.

Respectfully,

Tom Imeson, Chair
Oregon Board of Forestry