

To: Oregon Board of Forestry

From: Carolyn Eady, 1990 SE Sheridan St., Astoria, OR 97103 (503) 468-0310

Subject: Public Testimony (Item 9) BOF Meeting July 24, 2018

I have testified before the Board of Forestry many times over the past 20 years. I often suggested needed improvements, but I have always been supportive of this Board, primarily because I think by accepting this appointment you have taken on a very difficult job. Today is different however: I must challenge you.

You have received a plethora of information in your packets regarding the revision of the State Forest Management Plan, *but none of this material gets to the heart of the most urgent problems facing the state today regarding forestry:*

1. The urgent need for this Board to take prompt action to maximize the potential of Oregon forests to draw down carbon in the atmosphere to combat global warming. The Pacific Northwest is one of the best places in the world for growing trees, thus, its forests have the tremendous potential of performing this vital service. Instead, recent studies confirm that forestry is *the number one contributor to Greenhouse Gases, even exceeding the transportation sector!*
2. The equally vital need to stop the wholesale destruction of forestland along Hwy 101 from Astoria to Ashland by 'investment-type loggers' who's only concern is the Rate of Return on their logging operations. In the process, these limited liability companies (LLC's) are damaging the estuaries, compacting the soil by the highly mechanized way they log, poisoning the entire ecosystem by careless and excessive aerial spraying, and virtually destroying local water systems. Their short rotations do not allow the replanted trees sufficient time to meet the state's definition of 'cover'. As a result, Oregon has lost over one million acres of forest cover in the last 10 years.

The Department of Forestry is forecasting that it will run out of sufficient funds in the near future to cover the costs of its many mandated responsibilities, in spite of their cutting costs and increasing the volume and value of the timber harvested. *It is no longer acceptable for the department's funding needs to warp your response to these urgent issues.* This Board, the Governor, and the Legislature, as representatives of the people of this state, must exercise the type of leadership required in these times. Alternative method or methods of financing ODF must be created. (See attached for a proposal for reforming the Forest Practices Act by John Talberth, and a photograph of the north face of the Coast Range in Clatsop County, which has been severely impacted by the logging described above.)

Conclusion: Each of you must have the intelligence and leadership skills to have been appointed to this Board position. Surely you see the weather disasters every night on the news. I assume you are starting to have serious concerns about your children's and grandchildren's future. All I'm trying to say is that you have a rare opportunity to make a significant contribution to combatting global warming. If Oregon leads, I believe many others will follow.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns with you.

Carolyn Eady

- **Prohibitions on logging of sites with high landslide risk.** Clearcuts increase the rate of landslides by 200% relative to the natural background rate. The OFPA allows clearcutting on most high risk landslide locations. **This provision would prohibit logging on all landslide-prone sites that pose intermediate or substantial public safety risks and prohibit clearcutting on all high risk landslide areas not only to protect public safety, but to keep our productive soils from washing out to sea.**
- **Requirements for conservation and restoration of old growth forests.** Recent inventories confirm that less than 3% of state and private forestlands in Oregon support their natural endowment of large, multi-storied old growth conifer forests. The loss of old growth temperate rainforests west of the Cascades will be permanent unless measures are put in place to require long rotations and thinning of dense tree plantations to encourage the growth of large trees. Ecologists in both state and federal agencies say we need to have at least some old growth forests restored on state and private lands to meet regional conservation goals. **This provision would help achieve these goals by protecting what little is left and requiring corporate landowners to consult with state fish and wildlife experts to set aside portions of their ownerships dedicated to the development of late successional and old growth forest conditions.**
- **Flexibility for county, city, and water districts to enact more stringent regulations.** The OFPA contains a needless provision restricting the ability of local governments including water districts to adapt forest practice rules to local conditions to better protect at-risk resources. **This provision would eliminate that restriction and permit more stringent requirements where counties, cities, and water districts have determined that they are necessary.**
- **Closure and decommissioning of hazardous logging roads.** The extensive network of logging roads that permeate Oregon's forests is one of the biggest sources of damage to water quality, fish, and wildlife that need interior forest conditions. **This provision would require landowners to identify the most problematic roads and commit to programs to decommission or upgrade such roads to reduce sedimentation and remove barriers to fish passage.**
- **Economic incentives – forest carbon tax and reward.** Industrial forest practices represent one of Oregon's largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions. **This provision, included in companion legislation, would establish a forest carbon tax and reward system to incentivize zero-emissions forest practices.** The tax would only be levied on volume harvested in excess of natural forest growth in order to incentivize an ecologically sustainable yield. Proceeds from this tax will be used to provide incentive payments as a reward to landowners who commit to forest management techniques that result in a continuous increase in carbon storage.

For more information:

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