

Dear Board Members,

Tens of thousands of acres forests in western Oregon are now being managed on very short rotations of 25-30 years and vast, almost contiguous tracts of private forests are now in seedling(grassland) or sapling (brush field) age classes. Wildfire in these 'forests' will act like fires in grasslands or brush fields and spread much more rapidly than fires in mature or old growth forests. In addition to greater risk from more rapid spread of forest fires, these lands also suffer greater damage from fires, see article below. Since the industrial forests frequently border rural homes and communities, their current management practices are life-threatening.

Following severe forest fires, Oregon has responded with changes in the Forest Practices Act to reduce the risks and impacts of forest management practices. Management of Oregon's industrial forests has changed over the last 20 years, so I would appreciate your providing answers to the two questions below:

1. Has the Department of Forestry assessed the risk posed by the change in management practices on industrial forest lands?
2. Does the Board have plans to try modify these practices to reduce the fire risk/severity and the resulting ecological damage?

<https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/eap.1710h>

[Severe fire weather and intensive forest management ...](#)

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Severe fire weather and intensive forest management increase fire severity in a multi-ownership landscape HAROLD S. J. ZALD 1,3 AND CHRISTOPHER J. D UNN 2 1Department of Forestry and Wildland Resources, Humboldt State University, 1 Harpst Street, Arcata, California 95521 USA

Thank you for your service to our state.
Respectfully,

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