

# Tillamook County



*Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze*

Board of Commissioners  
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RE: Oregon Board of Forestry Testimony

Dear Board of Forestry:

## Snapshots v. Trends v. Benchmarks Presentation

We understand the value of a resource assessment and congratulate the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) on compiling this information into one place. We understand the benefit of describing the resource itself without coloring it with policy options. This information will help the Board of Forestry (BOF) understand the resource. We still maintain, however, that the BOF will make more informed, defensible decisions if ODF prepared benchmark alternatives of future resource capabilities and alternative forest plans. This assessment looks at the present, and in some cases to the past, but it does not provide any view of the future. It is not a substitute for the kind of benchmark projections we have advocated for in recent testimony.

We think that the assessment could benefit from more discussion of trends. The presentation was often most enlightening where trends were described (e.g. Northern Spotted Owl trends, harvest trends, thinning v. regeneration harvest trends). Below we note where some additional trend information would be helpful.

## Roads

- The discussion of roads was good. It would be helpful to know about costs. How much does construction and maintenance cost annually? How much comes from the Forest Development Fund and how much is provided as purchasers as part of timber sale contractual requirements. How are road costs changing?

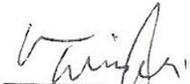
## Timber

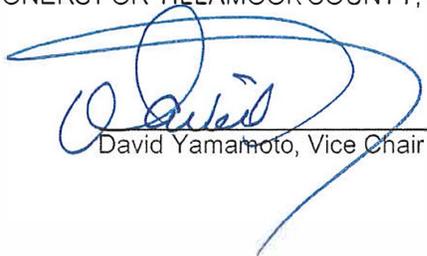
- The discussion of the current age class distribution and the species mix was helpful but the first slide tells us that only half the acres are available for harvest. For most of the subsequent slides, it is important to show conditions and distributions on available acres. How much of that aging alder, for example, is in protected riparian areas and how much could be regenerated into something more valuable?
- Tree size: Many mills that ODF delivers to have some maximum log size. How much of ODF's inventory currently exceeds these maximum log sizes?
- Swiss Needle Cast (SNC): This is a place where we found ourselves wanting to know more about management, in addition to the resource description. SNC rates seem to be rising. What has ODF been doing to address this issue and has it been effective? Same goes from root rot, etc.
- Drought slides: The series was very informative. Unfortunately, it doesn't come across in the printed slides. Perhaps you could arrange the 2012-2018 slides in a tile format.
- Timber harvest provides revenues: The pie chart hides the chart below.

- Missing in this section are statistics about how the forest is changing. One of the most important aspects of a forest is the fact that it is always growing and always changing. What are the trends in annual growth, harvest and mortality? How has the inventory changed – do we have more timber now than 20 years ago, or less?
- Also missing is anything about the value of the forest and the economic returns. The net return on asset value is one of ODF's performance measures. It should be in here.
- Young stand management cost: How many acres and trees are being planted annually? Is that increasing? Are the per acre costs increasing?

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR TILLAMOOK COUNTY, OREGON

  
Tim Josi, Chair

  
David Yamamoto, Vice Chair

  
Bill Baertlein, Commissioner