



# Oregon Outdoors

November 7, 2018

Oregon Board of Forestry  
Oregon Department of Forestry  
2600 State Street  
Salem, Oregon 97310

Board of Forestry Members and State Forester Daugherty,

Thank you on behalf of Oregon Outdoors (OO) for the opportunity to offer comment on the Forest Management Plan (FMP) revision process and the proposed goals and objectives. OO is a coalition comprised of members from the outdoor recreation industry, outdoor recreation non-profits and conservation groups with a mission "...to preserve and expand Oregon's outdoor assets for future generations." As such, OO is interested in a strong representation of conservation and recreation goals in the revised FMP.

OO appreciates the Guiding Principles that have been developed for the planning process. We are pleased that Principle 2 acknowledges the importance of managing for biological diversity and Principle 5 recognizes the need for forest and watershed restoration. We are particularly encouraged that Principle 4 calls for the revised FMP to "provide for a range of social benefits for all Oregonians including direct and indirect financial contributions to local and state governments, ecosystem services, opportunities for public access and recreational use, support for diverse local employment, and a process for participating in the forest management planning and implementation process." With this principle in mind, we stress the economic benefits of outdoor recreation, which in Oregon alone annually supports \$16.4 billion in consumer spending, 172,000 jobs, \$5.1 billion in wages and salaries, and \$749 million in State and local tax revenue (Outdoor Industry Association figures).

OO is heartened to see that of the 16 sets of goals and strategies, several are focused on conservation. Further, the goals and strategies for recreation, education and interpretation (REI) call for "enhancing, expanding and developing" REI opportunities and for "responsible use" of recreation resources. OO supports these goals. However, OO is concerned that the extensive set of proposed goals and strategies will result in an inability to adequately fund all aspects of the FMP and that REI goals may suffer. Given the economic importance of outdoor recreation in the State, underfunding recreation would be counter to the Greatest Permanent Value rule.

OO looks forward to providing additional input as the planning process continues, consistent with Guiding Principle 9 (“Diverse input from Oregonians and a variety of interested parties will be a high priority throughout planning processes.”). It is our sincere hope that the current FMP revision process will result in enhanced and expanded conservation and recreation outcomes on ODF lands. We believe such a result will provide the greatest long-term value to Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hugh Morrison", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hugh Morrison  
Network Coordinator  
Oregon Outdoors