

From: Walt Mintkeski, Portland, OR 97202
To: Oregon Board of Forestry
Date: November 7, 2018
Re: Forest Management Plan Revision

My name is Walt Mintkeski, I am a retired environmental engineer and a citizen advocate for sustainable practices which protect the natural environment. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

I have spent many hours in the Clatsop and Tillamook state forests hiking and enjoying nature. I have also spent time in several timber sale areas, (such as the Homesteader sale in 2015), and I am discouraged to see ODF has clearcut rare, older stands.

I understand that the Board of Forestry has directed ODF to develop options that both increase the financial viability of the department as well as increase conservation outcomes. I strongly support your goal of increasing conservation. **However, I do not see how the proposed changes in the Forest Management Plan accomplish these twin goals.**

The proposed changes to the FMP have no discernable conservation increases. The current FMP creates a range of forest structures across the landscape and establishes areas with complex structure with layered and older forests. This current management provides benefits to wildlife, waters, and outdoor recreation, but it is unclear how the proposed revisions will increase conservation or financial viability.

Any revision to the FMP needs to have clear conservation improvements that protect fish, water, wildlife, and recreation. Conservation improvements can be made through increased stream buffers, reducing new roads, protecting older tree stands, reducing aerial spraying, and establishing larger patches dedicated to special habitats and conservation. However, the proposed revisions do not address any of these items and doesn't even say how it would increase conservation at all.

Additionally, it is unclear how these revisions to the forest management plan increase financial viability. There is no analysis on current and future costs anticipated by the ODF state forest program. Without a better understanding of department costs, it is impossible to understand what changes are needed to increase financial viability. More attention needs to be paid to diversifying revenues to ensure long-term stable funding for the department.

In conclusion, we need a balanced and sustainable management plan for our state forests – management that produces a wide range of public values for today while enhancing the forests for future generations. I hope to see any revision to the forest management plan increase conservation and ensure ODF is financially viable.

Thank you for your time,

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