

Nov. 8, 2018 Board of Forestry Meeting, Salem, OR Comments
Commissioner Sullivan, Clatsop County.

State Forester Daugherty, Chair Imeson and Board members, good morning!

My name is Kathleen Sullivan, I'm here today as a Clatsop County Commissioner. Our county located on the mouth of the mighty Columbia River, just two hours from Portland, produces the highest amount of timber revenue of the Trust Land Counties. We are also the only ^{Trust} county that voted to opt out of the Linn County Lawsuit. We continue to believe the Greatest Permanent Value for our state forests includes a balanced forest management plan that produces revenue, but also protects wildlife habitat and provides recreational opportunities along with the other intrinsic values of complex forests.

The Linn County Lawsuit is not only diverting precious capitol and staff time, it is silencing collaboration and communication between ^{trust} counties ^{on this issue.} This legal conflict is unfortunate on many levels, and for now, Clatsop county will continue to bring our views directly to the Board of Forestry.

Clatsop County continues to support the creation of a Habitat Conservation Plan for our state forests as a means to preserving endangered species and wildlife habitat while reducing operating costs of managing our forests. We are asking the Board of Forestry to do all it can to facilitate the process of creating an HCP sooner rather than later.

We're also concerned about watersheds, water temperatures, and waterways. We understand it is a delicate balance between harvesting for revenue and managing for long term healthy forests, but Clatsop citizens continue to express their concerns about aerial spraying of pesticides, of wanting their watersheds protected for clean drinking water, and for enough shade to cool waterways for fish. We encourage the use of the best practices in these matters.

And, because Clatsop county agrees with the 99 percent of our world's scientists in their factual based analysis that Climate Change is real, we are grateful there is now a guiding principle in the Forest Management Plan addressing Climate Change. We know that Climate Change is already impacting Oregon's economy, already impacting our forests, oceans, and rivers as well as seasonal businesses. We ask that the Forest Management plan incorporate ways to mitigate these new realities now and into the future.

Unfortunately, we don't have to look far into the future to see that the looming budgetary burdens of increasing operating costs, the expanding expenses of fighting wild fires, and the ever inflating costs of PERS, and not to forget any pending financial penalties of litigation, to predict that additional revenue streams must be found to support ODF in order to continue the sustainable, and balanced management of our public forest lands for the benefit of us all. We believe the Governor and the legislature need to be encouraged to be part of the solution.

I would like end my comments by welcoming the new board members to this body, and to thank all of you, new, and continuing members, for your service. Thank you.