

Chair Imeson, State Forester Daugherty, and members of the Board:

Thank you for your time today. My name is Hannah Hegerberg and I want to share the many ways working forests impact my life.

As a South Dakotan until a few years ago, I didn't know much about forestry other than the Pine Beetles that were killing the beautiful trees in the Black Hills National Forests. But after growing up on a farm, what I did know, was that anyone who made their living off the land cared very deeply about everything they did and how it would affect them, and the future generations who tried to farm that land after them. I learned about noxious and invasive weeds and how important it was to manage them, pulling, chopping, and spraying thistles was a regular farm chore growing up. I learned about caring for the land, leaving habitat for the wild animals while also creating suitable grazing for our farm operations.

After moving to Oregon and meeting my logger husband, I have learned so much about the working forests of Oregon. My husband owns and manages a own small logging and forestry business, and anyone who has owned a small business in Oregon can tell you that it is a leap of faith that comes with it's share of sleepless nights. My husband is a talented equipment operator and works hard to keep his employees not only gainfully employed but also meeting and exceeding landowner and Forest Practices Act expectations. I have been impressed as I've learned from this process how much the operators and the forester have to work together to ensure the rules are met and resources are protected. There is a culture in this industry of protecting resources and getting the job done the right way. That's not a surprise to anyone who has grown up in Oregon, I've learned it's at the heart of what it means to be an Oregonian.

For almost two years now I've been working for the Oregon Forest & Industries Council as the Community Outreach Coordinator. I have spent a portion of my summers at county fairs and local festivals talking to Oregonians about the working forest landscapes they see every day. This summer, many of the comments and conversations I've had with people about working forests have gone something like this, "My dad was a logger, that industry is the backbone of our community". And "I don't know what would happen if the mill closed, it is so important to this community." "We just did a harvest on our property, and now the deer and elk are so thick!" And of course, this one "Our public lands need to be managed better in this state, these fires are bad for everyone."

The things I hear in these communities, not surprisingly, tend to match up very well with the OFRI Values & Beliefs information which is part of today's consent agenda. Oregonians love and value their forests, especially their working forests, but not all of them understand how much care and protection goes into the decisions about when, how, where, and why we harvest. I wish I could show every Oregonian the operations my husband Matt works on everyday. Loggers and Foresters are some of the most amazing people I know, and I am lucky to witness them at work in the woods or in their local communities sharing their passion for working forests with their friends and neighbors. I am proud to work in this industry and I know the hard working folks I talk to every day are too.