

ROSE Sherry * ODF

From: Craig Patterson <craigmpatterson@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2017 4:08 PM
To: ARMSTRONG Ken W * ODF
Cc: ROSE Sherry * ODF
Subject: Comments for the Forest Trust Advisory committee.

Hello Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee Members,

Please accept this as public input to your committee. I appreciate the opportunity to explore these critical forestry issues with you and all.

First let me share a brief recap of my background. I moved to McKenzie Bridge in 1974 and was a member of the McKenzie river forestry cooperative doing all kinds of contract labor for timber companies and the forest service in the late 1970's. In 1985-86 I was one of the main developers and proponents of Abundant Resources, Abundant Opportunities – a grass roots effort to define a sustainable economic foundation based on balance between forestry, agriculture, tourism and geothermal development for the McKenzie River Valley. I gave Martin Gobel of Sustainable Northwest a copy and he created 'Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities' and never worked with us one nickel. So much for integrity. Then in 2005 I gave a paper for the National roundtable on Sustainable forests in Washington D.C. David Morman who's retired from ODF also gave a paper. So I have a rare combination of hands on as well as research toward attempting to help rural forested communities. I have a long history in this regard.

Back in the 1970's and 1980's - 71% of the economy in Lane county was Timber/wood products based. Jobs were plentiful and the boom was very apparent everywhere.

Today it's a very different story. Timber/wood products accounts for 3-4% of Lane county's economy and ALL rural timber dependent communities are in serious financial difficulties. No exceptions. When I asked Mary Mitsos of the National forest foundation who funds communities if she was aware of one thriving rural community anywhere? She answered no, I don't. These conditions and situations (short boom followed by protracted bust is the rule not the exception) when it comes to Industrial forestry..... every time. When do we learn that lesson?

Specifically, how do current rural economic conditions relate to the ODF mission statement and key concept of 'greatest permanent value'? Greatest permanent value for whom? Certainly it hasn't been permanent. So where is the 'learning' in this regard? Can we at least have an open, transparent and meaningful discussion as to the merits and lessons learned in this regard. But to bury one's head in the sand ignoring the sobering realities isn't constructive to anyone, particularly our children and grand children.

My work over the last 40 years has been attempting to articulate, explore and demonstrate examples of sustainable forestry around three concepts. True selective harvesting, local processing with portable saw mills into end-product forest management. We integrate value added job creation with harvesting, minimizing waste and maximizing utility. I would happily talk at length regarding the transitions needed, if there is interest and support.

Bottom line - We must do better for future generations.....and I believe and I can help in this regard.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,
Craig Patterson