From: Kevin Test
To: ODF DL Board of Forestry
Subject: Advance Durable Protections for State Forests
Date: Sunday, September 27, 2020 11:08:26 AM

Dear Oregon Board of Forestry,

Dear Members of the Oregon Board of Forestry,

I am a lifelong Oregonian of 62 years who has grown increasingly apprehensive about the dangers to our regions ecosystems due to climate change and environmental degradation . . . I am especially concerned about multi-faceted hazards to anadromous fish habitat throughout Oregon and the entire Pacific Northwest . . . It is with a sense of urgency that I strongly encourage you to support the State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan in Western Oregon . . .
~ ~
I write to strongly support moving ahead with the State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan (SFHCP) for Western Oregon. The plan is a compromise that seeks a balance between different interests. I urge you to vote yes and continue with the planning process.

As you know, state forests are managed for a broad goal of "greatest permanent value" to the state.

In this era of climate change and endangered species, it is critical to support a balanced plan that conserves our natural resources for the future while also providing a mix of benefits for today.

The SFHCP is a compromise that balances timber harvest with fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, clean water, and climate mitigation.

The SFHCP provides significant conservation in important salmon and steelhead strongholds: the Wilson, Salmonberry, Nehalem, Miami, Trask, and Kilchis rivers. Lands adjacent to the 17-mile Nehalem State Scenic Waterway corridor will get increased protections under this plan. These are positive measures.

The HCP will also reduce the state's liability to endangered species lawsuits, and the plan will also save the state money in the long run. As you know, ODF currently spends $2.5 million annually just to survey and avoid endangered species habitat. This plan frees up these resources for the state, conservationists, and timber operators to focus on management, instead of on conflicts over endangered species.

We know there is more information and analysis coming in the NEPA process and afterward. But there has been a transparent two-year planning process to date. There is enough information to move forward.

I ask you to continue this process by advancing this important plan.

Sincerely, Kevin Test

Sincerely,
Kevin Test

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