From: Diane Frank
To: ODF_DL_Board of Forestry
Subject: Advance Durable Protections for State Forests
Date: Sunday, September 27, 2020 10:56:15 PM

Dear Oregon Board of Forestry,

Dear Members of the Oregon Board of Forestry,

After this heavy fire season, I URGE you to move ahead with conservation of this most valuable resource for our state. When driving through burn areas in our beloved state, I am ever more reminded of what a valuable resource our forests are for our entire state.

I understand loggers feel left out but with wise management our natural resources can become a source of tourism and attract visitors to local communities.

Transitions are always challenging but now is the time to preserve our natural resources, engage local communities in tourism and support nature and wildlife from our majestic old growth forests, to our bird life and it all trickles down to our lowliest gnat. Out circle of life embraces all of it and when even one link is broken, the eco system we so cherish begins to collapse. Please preserve these resources for the generations coming behind us. It is least we can do in these challenging times.

Diane Frank

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. I agree with all that is stated below.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,
Diane Frank
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