From: Paul Vanderford
To: ODF_DL_Board of Forestry
Subject: Advance Durable Protections for State Forests
Date: Sunday, September 27, 2020 12:33:46 PM

Dear Oregon Board of Forestry,

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I write to strongly support moving ahead with the State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan (SFHCP) for Western Oregon.

HCPs have been in place in WA of public and private forest lands with school trust obligations and other situations that make their process a good test of viability and impact.

We expect a lot from public land. I personally elk hunting, fish for salmon, crab, clam, camp, and mushroom hunt on state forestland and ecosystems impacted by management, mainly Tillamook State Forest.

As science and our understanding of impact increases HCPs with surgical adjustments to maximize value with minimum economic impact are now possible.

Specifically our understand of what is needed to increase salmon and river resilience to climate change has become more clear. Work my the EPA showing forest management and in-stream flow flow Relationships and work by Gordy Reeves on woody derbies recruitment are cornerstones to my support for a HCP.

The plan is a compromise that seeks a balance between different interests. I urge you to vote yes and continue with the planning process.

In this era of climate change and endangered species, it is critical to support a balanced plan. 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,
Paul

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Paul Vanderford
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