From: Carol Low
To: ODF_DL_Board of Forestry
Subject: Foret maintenance
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 7:50:08 PM

Dear Members Board of Forestry,

As owner of a small tract forest, I am afraid that the threatened conservation plan will decrease available logging AND forest support while increasing fire danger--In the presence of humans, unlike in pre-history, a forest cannot just sit safely without older trees being thinned and fuel load being reduced periodically. People depend upon forests BOTH for their livelihood and for building materials. The irrational plots continually put up in Salem for the destruction of the timber industry are no boon to the state.

I understand that you're in the process of making a Habitat Conservation Plan for our state forests that could impact western Oregon communities for decades to come. This is an immensely important decision, and I'm writing today to ask you to make sure that this plan ensures reasonable and reliable timber harvest.

The Oregon Department of Forestry has already reduced harvest levels to the point where there is not enough revenue to manage and protect our state forests. What's more, the Oregon Department of Forestry faces severe cash problems and the current plan would make it more reliant on our public tax dollars to stay afloat. Why would you consider a plan that dramatically decreases harvest and makes these problems worse?

Please protect our rural communities that rely on harvests from state forests for critical forestry and mill jobs.

Don't make a plan that decreases active management of our forests, putting jobs at risk and increasing the risk of catastrophic wildfires that put the health of firefighters and communities in peril.

Now is not the time to reduce harvest, cut jobs, and decrease revenue from state forests.

I appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

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