From: Keith Royer
To: ODF_DL_Board of Forestry
Subject: Don"t make the problem worse
Date: Saturday, September 05, 2020 8:00:07 PM

Dear Members Board of Forestry,

Oregon is the #1 softwood producer in our country, despite the strictest of regulation and laws on harvest, related roads, reforestation, waterways, etc. We are the number #1 because Oregon takes care of its natural resources for future generations.

Wood is our world's only renewable, sustainable, carbon eating building material. The cement industry contributes 8% and the iron and steal industries contribute 5% of worldwide emissions.

Oregon's economy depends on healthy and well managed forests for revenue and to mitigate wild fires. Please support their efforts instead of undermining them.

Our state needs a Habitat Conservation Plan that protects family-wage jobs, keeps providing fiber for local mills, and invests in healthy forest management that reduces the risk of catastrophic wildfire. We do not need a plan that puts 100s of thousands of acres off-limits to harvest and forfeits millions of dollars in timber revenues that our communities need. Especially now.

Currently almost all of US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management timberlands are off-limits for harvest, creating conditions that have driven environmentally devastating, uncontrolled wildfires. Don't put our state lands off-limits, too.

Instead, endorse a plan that includes effective reforestation tools, controlled burns, and smart, science-based forestry.

Do the right thing. Please make sure you keep in mind that the long-term impacts of this plan. The future our communities rely on making sure a Habitat Conservation Plan on our state forests protects critical jobs and a sustainable fiber supply. We need our state to do everything it can to protect jobs and provide revenue for the economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

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,

Keith Royer
85802 Lorane Hwy
Eugene, OR 97405
keith@aioregon.com