From: Julie Joli
To: ODF_DL_Board of Forestry
Subject: Don"t make the problem worse
Date: Saturday, September 26, 2020 12:30:19 PM

Dear Members Board of Forestry,

Our forests are in trouble! It's easy to assume that shutting them down is a way of protecting them or preserving habitat. From a logical standpoint, it doesn't make sense. The less state forest harvesting, the less active forest management, the more over crowded our forests become. The more over crowded, the less resilient. With over crowding, more water competition, the trees becomes weakened. Then more susceptible to disease and you can see where sick and dying trees become a fuel load for massive forest fires we have experienced. And at the end of all that, habitat is destroyed and lost. Exact opposite of what is trying to be accomplished here.
Everyone benefits from active forest management. Everyone and everything. Jobs are maintained, animal habitat is preserved, the forests become healthier! It's a healthy cycle.

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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