From: Eric Urstadt
To: ODF_DL_Board of Forestry
Subject: Don"t make the problem worse
Date: Wednesday, September 02, 2020 9:40:57 AM

Dear Members Board of Forestry,

I have worked in the forest industry for over 45 years. I worked for Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) for just under 4 years. I doubt that a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is needed or best for ODF, but it sounds as if you have already decided to go down that road. I suggest you stop that process now, if you can.

I have witnessed the demise of the Elliot State Forest, where I once worked. It was once a huge source of employment, recreation, and timber for the world; now it is a waste due to "ecological" constraints and the continued state management by the Division of State Lands (DSL). It has become a huge waste that it is "managed" still by the state. The huge forest has few logical uses except growing timber, but harvest has not happened for years. Little benefits to the community now come from that forest. Dont' let the remainder of ODF lands become such a waste.
Federal forests such as US Forest Service (USFS) lands are burning as we speak. They have little management at huge cost. The forest are not producing profits.
Try to keep the ODF lands managed for a profit and more similar to how private lands are managed. Encourage harvesting and hunting. No more preserves that will burn and reburn. No one benefits from these preserves anymore. We need harvest to create income to keep roads open and make and update parks that will get used.

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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