From: Ann Walker
To: ODF_DL_Board of Forestry
Subject: STOP THE REGULATIONS THAT KILL OUR FOREST ECONOMIC SECTOR - Don"t make the problem worse
Date: Tuesday, September 01, 2020 10:40:12 AM

Dear Members Board of Forestry,

Wildfires on both sides of the Cascades in Oregon are occurring today. You HAVE to make decisions to manage the forest so it is healthy and can withstand devastating wildfires, that result in stand-replacement conditions, burned soils that won't sustain living seeds, and wash-out/erosion during post-season rains. These conditions result in exterminating our economic forest sector and destroying of rural communities.

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.

DO NOT 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. The governor's wildfire council and the ODF support the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, which calls for ACTIVE MANAGEMENT. Follow your own policies, please! Make the decisions that align with what you publicly support, do not allow environmentalists free reign on your decisions.

Now is NOT the time to reduce harvest, cut jobs, and decrease revenue from state forests. The state is in a social conflict escalated by COVID, people need to go to work and STOP this lazy, destructive behavior. Please put people back to work!

I appreciate your leadership and expect you to make decisions for all Oregonians!

Sincerely,

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