From: Irene Jerome
To: ODF_DL_Board of Forestry
Subject: Habitat Conservation Plan - NOT!!
Date: Wednesday, September 02, 2020 12:30:09 PM

Dear Members Board of Forestry,

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.

Further, and probably the most critical of all, Oregon's forests are no longer in "primeval" condition because we have people everywhere. In order to maintain state forests in a desirable condition professionals must be able to manage the forests. The romantic notion that "no management" will .lead to the "forest primeval" of pre-settlement times is a fallacy. PLEASE don't do this. We can have forests with the various resource values that the public desires but we must have the ability to do some management.

I am a forester and have been in this business for 40+ years. What I have witnessed is the degradation and loss of forests not so much due to commercial harvest but to neglect.

Sincerely,

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