From:	Robert Johnson
To:	ODF_DL_Board of Forestry
Subject:	Protects family-wage jobs
Date:	Saturday, September 05, 2020 8:38:53 PM

Dear Board Member Board of Forestry,

I retired from ODF after 35 years of service in several of the agency's programs. I worked in the Clatsop and Tillamook State Forests between 1978 -1985 doing timber sale preparation and reforestation work.

During thie HCP process has ODF, or ODFW, inventoried wildlife species to learn if the harvest practices used decades ago provided adequate wildlife habitat. Since my time doing sale layout the FPA riparian rules have greatly increased streamside protections. I dont know if greater harvest restrictions proposed in the Habitat Conservation Plan would yield proportional benefits.

Unfortunately, I do not think any new conservation plan will keep ODF out of court. Some no-harvest environmental groups will always sue in court, and/or 'take to the trees ' to block harvest. For all the effort to enact it, I do not think a HCP keep ODF and the Board out of court.

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 10s 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 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.

Regards,
Robert Johnson
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