From: Thomas Scoggins
To: ODF_DL_Board of Forestry
Subject: HCP shouldn"t put our jobs and local services at risk
Date: Tuesday, September 01, 2020 10:50:09 AM

Dear Members Board of Forestry,

The preliminary figures from the Habitat Conservation Plan efforts show a reduction of 25-50% of allowable timber harvest on State Forest Lands, and a "set-aside" of over 50% of our State Forests. To adopt such a plan would be a big mistake and might even be illegal, given ODF's fiduciary responsibilities to the counties. This type of plan could wreak havoc with county budgets and with the budgets of rural communities that depend on a sustainable harvest of timber from these trust lands.
An attempt at working with USFWS in the late 90's for an HCP was dropped because the price was just too high, and it appears that this would also be the case right now. Although the current strategy of "take avoidance" is also not very palatable and wastes millions of budget dollars for ODF, it appears that the HCP would be even more unpalatable.

I would urge the Board to look closely at this proposed HCP and to also listen closely to the voices of those who depend on State Forests for their livelihood and community stability.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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