From: Dennis Morehouse
To: ODF_DL_Board of Forestry
Subject: Don't put our state lands off-limits
Date: Tuesday, September 01, 2020 7:10:09 PM

Dear Members Board of Forestry,

Recent history shows that failure to properly manage our forests results in devastating forest fires, bug infestations and other damage. Limiting our forests to only nature reserve status not only destroys jobs and local services, but also locks out many regular people never be able to use them. The 'elites' should leave our forests alone!

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, controlled burns, 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.

Sincerely,

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