From: Victoria Higgins
To: ODF_DL_Board of Forestry
Subject: Don't put our state lands off-limits
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 8:00:12 PM

Dear Members Board of Forestry,

My family has worked in the forest for over 4 generations. My brother was caught in the "perfect storm" of environmental game playing that halted timber management in the 90's. He had to change what he truly loved to do and stop trying to log. He has a self loadet that he put $35k into and will never be able to recoup. He has another truck and two trailers that he can't get what he has into them. He is hauling gravel and cement now to make a living. But he gad to move out of his home town to do that.

Timber management needs to save our world from fires that cause horrible smoke and cost lives, homes and animals.

Allow reasonable timver land management. Fire the young flunkies that'd not understand timver land management saves trees, saves lives, saves jobs and keeps our forests green.

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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