From: Richard Tylock
To: ODF_DL_Board of Forestry
Subject: Don't put our state lands off-limits
Date: Tuesday, September 01, 2020 3:20:09 PM

Dear Members Board of Forestry,

Too much is being spent on State Forests that the public knows little or nothing about. I think that more can be done working with the small plot owners without the extreme up front cost to the owners to help clean up these plots to further the spread of Sudden Oak, and fire loads caused by the unhealthy conditions rather than continued control of the rapid spread of SOD that has proved isn't possible. It is important to clean up and fix that which has already been damaged by disease and fire then to control the forward movement of this couple of decades old disease that is I suspect mutating and a possible type 2 may occur due to a weakened forest environment. The next fire could also cause a great loss of life that will have no price tag. Perhaps Coos Fire Protection instead of Patrol alone, they could be incorporated into these working crews of control burns and forest cleans ups? I'm not sure why we are taxed extra for our houses being on our properties zoned R, but they do not put out structure fires, and we also pay a separate patrol fee to them. I'm not sure why, as we have our own Fire District manned 24/7/365. They can surely use the funds and are payed nothing for their fire, and EMT responses. Right now, I'm having a hard time understanding why we are under a Fire Warden ruling that is really formulated toward Forestry principals rather than residential regulation codes and ordinances?. Then have the county collect the taxes. Seems like a double taxation? Also we used to be able to at least attempt to control the amount of combustibles by control burns by piles and permits issued for days that were conducive to burn. It eliminated a lot of combustibles as there is just too few burn days during the open season. It worked great, and I can't recall any that had got out of control. A call in just before the burn, notified the smoke, the permit gave the look see for safety, and all was well. It was stopped, the reason given was lack of man power. I don't believe that, but OK. However, now when a fire occurs you have a fire load build up that is a problem, and you have no idea because you haven't been there in years. No win win there! So some fixing on how you will operate and then how to integrate back with the community, like it used to be years back. Even trained with volunteers to certify they were able to prepare for wildland help. Guess it must have been a world somewhere else? There needs to be a relationship of trust before you can program one of cooperation. After living here for 30 plus years, I haven't seen improvement other than a distancing. I no longer know if there is a mission or what it might be. I remember the start of the SOD, who is in charge? Yep, kind of knew, watched, waited, OK now I know the pecking order...I'm not impressed. Your plan sounds great on paper, like many. Does it work?

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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