From: Sharon Waterman
To: ODF_DL_Board of Forestry
Subject: Don't put our state lands off-limits
Date: Tuesday, September 01, 2020 4:40:07 PM

Dear Members Board of Forestry,

We own and operate timber lands in southern coastal Oregon. It is sickening to see part of Oregon forestland go up in flames each year. Many of these fires are human caused but many are difficult to stop due to fuel loading and insect kills. Oregon's forest lands need proper management which includes sustainable harvest to support the economy, counties, and schools as well as reforestation with management using the available tools and science.

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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