From: Jeff Wimer
To: ODF_DL_Board of Forestry
Subject: Don't put our state lands off-limits
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 4:00:21 PM

Dear Members Board of Forestry,

Oregon is soon to become another California. And not in a good way. Timber production is what built this state. Provided good paying jobs and work in our rural communities. Now rural communities have some of the highest crime and drug abuse problems.

People have the most-conception that our forest streams and wildlife are being largely degraded by our harvesting activities. Only to the contrary in that we have some of the cleanest water of any state in the nation. Locking up forest land without returning it to its natural state, allowing it to be burned, will create an unnatural forest. By making the decision to set aside land from forestry just creates land that will not return to a natural state, it will eventually die and create a natural hazard. This is completely evidenced in our tender box conditions we have throughout the state.

Quit loving our land to death. Work the land and it will provide.

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,

Jeff Wimer
305 NE Cherry Ln
Albany, OR 97321
jeffrey.wimer@oregonstate.edu