From: Paul Ferris
To: ODF_DL_Board of Forestry
Subject: HCP Board Decision: Worried for our state's economy
Date: Friday, October 02, 2020 9:51:20 AM

Dear Board of Forestry,

While I know the following is a form letter, my feelings are deeply felt as to the forest issues here in Oregon. For the first 40+ years of my 68 years we did not have major fires like we have now. We also had long stretches of high temperatures and low water years especially in the early 60's. When we had fires that started up there were lumber workers in the forest that were able to stop most of the fires quickly.

We desperately need to harvest more timber on a regular basis to reduce the fuel load. The management has produced a terrible situation that we are hard pressed to deal with. Please consider your decisions responsibly.

I'm an Oregonian and I'm worried about our state's economy.

That's why I'm writing to ask that you protect Oregon's forest industry and 60,000 family-wage jobs Oregonians need now more than ever.

Why would the Board of Forestry even consider a state Habitat Conservation Plan that does not reflect any concern or understanding of rural counties' financial condition or needs?

Please remember the mill workers who count on fiber from state forests. Please remember that rural communities in western Oregon rely upon the revenues from timber harvests to fund schools, libraries and other critical services. Please do the right thing.

Let's manage our forests with our children and grandchildren in mind – making sure our forests and the communities nearby will be healthy and thriving decades from now.

Thank you,