From: Diane Bassett
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,

I have lived in Oregon more than 70 years. I was raised primarily in Southern Oregon, namely Klamath Falls and Medford. I presently live in Clatskanie. I feel very strongly that many of the timber lands in state ownership have been managed poorly for the years that have emphasized so-called environmental ideology. Forests can be well managed and harvested at the same time. To use non-use and no harvests as an environmental strategy has failed repeatedly. I have observed badly kept forest floors, resulting in more fire danger and more frequent forest fires. I have seen dead forests just decay and become tinder. These are not good environmental or economic goals and very unfair to the taxpayers and wage earners. Many small communities depend on timber harvesting and forest care for their survival.

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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