From: Leslie Grush
To: ODF_DL_Board of Forestry
Cc: MINER Jason * GOV
Subject: In support of State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 9:33:24 PM

Dear Board of Forestry,

I am writing to ask that you move ahead with the State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan (SFHCP) for Western Oregon. As you know, state forests are managed for a broad goal of "greatest permanent value" to the state. In this era of climate change and habitat loss, the greatest permanent value of these forests are to conserve our natural resources for the future. The SFHCP is a compromise that balances timber harvest with fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, clean water, and climate mitigation. It will protect areas of forest from harvest for decades to come, allowing them to sequester and store atmospheric carbon undisturbed.

The HCP will also save the state money in the long run by reducing the state's liability to endangered species lawsuits and reducing the $2.5 million annually spent just to survey and avoid endangered species habitat. This plan frees up these resources for the state, conservationists, and timber operators to focus on management, instead of on conflicts over endangered species.

Kind regards,
Leslie Grush
350PDX Forest Defense