From: seawolves1969@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mike Poremba
To: ODF_DL_Board of Forestry
Subject: Please vote yes on the State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan
Date: Thursday, October 01, 2020 6:26:02 AM

Dear Oregon Board of Forestry,

I'm writing to you today in support of the State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan. I appreciate that this balanced approach values our state forests for habitat, recreation, and clean drinking water, rather than prioritizing logging above all else. I urge you to vote yes and continue with the planning process.

As a newer resident of this state, having moved from N. Illinois 3 years ago, I was blown away by the sprawling mountain forests of this magnificent place, that all too often is missed by people east of The Rockies. They hear Oregon and immediately think "Portland" and nothing else... a handful will think "Crater Lake". But to me the far more alluring aspects of our state are the vast areas between those 2 points and all the way to the southern & western borders- from the coastal woodlands and diverse habitats of the coast range, to the multiple federally designated Wildernesses & Wild & Scenic Rivers (I myself am blessed to see the Rogue River at least twice a day as it carves it's way past Upper & Lower Table Rock). Now having acquainted myself with several folks from ODFW, I'm learning about creatures that were only figures in books as a child, animals I hoped to see but never thought possible. Last month I was rendered motionless as my very first Great Gray Owl floated past me and alighted on a branch 40 ft away during a late morning hike, as impossibly silent as a giant puff of dryer lint. Then it swiveled it's head and I felt hypnotized by those massive yellow orbs of eyes. It seemed to last minutes but was less than 1, and it lifted up as quietly as it came, tilting & careening through the Ponderosa Pines & Douglas Firs.

As you know, our state forests are incredibly valuable. They provide us with clean drinking water in rivers like the Wilson and Nehalem, which are also important homes for salmon and steelhead. They provide much-needed habitat for endangered spotted owls, and marbled murrelets. They're beautiful and have enormous value for recreation. And, perhaps most importantly, temperate rainforests like those in our state forests are some of the best in the world at sequestering carbon and fighting climate change.

Please continue this process by voting yes on the State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan, so we can protect our state forests for future generations!

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Mike Poremba
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