From: Cynthia Jones
To: ODF_DL_Board of Forestry
Subject: HCP Board Decision: Worried for our state's economy
Date: Friday, October 02, 2020 9:48:29 AM

Dear Board of Forestry,

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?

I grew up in an area that depended on logging. Our forests grew large beautiful trees with an abundant variety of trees. These forests were managed and harvested in a way that was sustainable by foresters and landowners who loved the land and practiced good stewardship of the land. With common sense. Only select trees were harvested and others allowed to grow. The forests were beautiful and provided for the communities. Undergrowth was managed, keeping out of control wild fires to a minimum. The forest were kept in a continuous cycle of growth and harvest for generations. We were thriving. And so were the forests. There were mills which provided good paying jobs funded schools and so much more in the area. Our forests were filled with wildlife and available for recreation. A great place to grow up.

But things have changed. The forests were shut down. The mills torn down. Thriving communities are dead or dying. And the forests... they are too. What the beetles have not killed off, fires have ravaged. So what was once lush and green with large beautiful forests that covered vast areas that were beautiful green for as far as your eyes could see standing at the top 14,180 feet. Now have much smaller trees, large areas are burned and will not benefit the surviving wildlife or the economy of the state.

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,