



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Department of Forestry

State Forester's Office
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310-1336
503-945-7200
FAX 503-945-7212
www.oregon.gov/ODF



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

August 29, 2014

The Honorable John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.
Governor's Office
State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Governor Kitzhaber:

The Oregon Board of Forestry has reviewed and approved the Department of Forestry's 2015-2017 Agency Request Budget, and submits it to you with this letter.

This budget supports the Board's and Department's mission, legal responsibilities, and obligations to the people of Oregon. It strives to serve our state by protecting, managing, and promoting the sound stewardship of our forests, in turn producing a broad range of sustainable economic, environmental and social benefits.

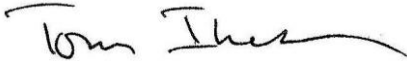
The budget reflects input from our stakeholders, a spirit of innovation, and strong links to the outcomes envisioned in the 10-Year Plan for Oregon. In the Fire Protection program, it seeks additional support for Rangeland Protection Associations, helping to provide fire protection in areas that now have none, a situation that threatens natural resources and adjoining protected lands. It proposes restoration of important investments in recreation, education, interpretation, and research and monitoring in our State Forests Program, and offers a new funding strategy for the South Fork Work Camp. These proposals strive to broaden this program's funding base, to more directly connect funding of specific programs with the beneficiaries of those programs, and to address challenges with financial viability.

In the Private Forests Program, this budget proposes technological enhancements to improve efficiency, enhance customer service, and strengthen enforcement of the Forest Practices Act. In Agency Administration, it enhances capacity to meet workload needs. The budget also proposes funding for restoration of the historic State Forester's Building, which has experienced decades of deferred maintenance. Throughout, it represents a commitment to healthy, working forests, actively managed according to sound science and forward-looking policy.

In recent years, the Board and Department have made substantial progress in strategic planning, and in aligning budget development with overarching priorities and needs. Accordingly, this budget reflects thoughtful selection of proposals that move our work forward.

Forests are our state's signature resource. The Board and Department appreciate the opportunity to work with you and your staff to craft a budget that best uses available funds to realize these forests' many benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Imeson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tom Imeson, Chair
Oregon Board of Forestry

c: Oregon Board of Forestry
Richard Whitman, Governor's Natural Resources Policy Director
Brett Brownscombe, Natural Resources Policy Advisor
Doug Decker, Oregon State Forester
Department Executive Team