ODF Forest Management

My name is David Eisler. I have owned and managed timberland in the Coast Range in Lane County for the last 35 years.

For decades forest management planning has been based on sets of quantifiable values; timber volumes, timber prices, timber receipts for funding schools and funding the agency, but we have never been able to quantify the value of clean water, endangered species, or a healthy mature forest. Putting it in negative terms, we are not able to put a cost on pesticides or sediments in streams, loss of species from minute macro invertebrates or pollinators to Marbled Murrelets or Spotted Owls- the "canaries in the coal mines"- and while planners recognize these natural resources in management planning documents the momentum of the traditional approach, the perception of the forested landscape as a timber volume value solving our immediate financial demands, carries us forward into what is now a totally new challenge of managing forests within the climate change reality. I think we would all agree that climate change requires us to address the value of water and air quality, the value of sequestered carbon, the value of mature biodiverse forest stands or speaking negatively, the need to address the costs of water quality degradation, loss of plant and animal species, loss of carbon storage. We can be certain that the value of these natural resources will increase exponentially in the years to come and we can be equally certain that the costs to the public will increase.

We have not, in the past, been able to quantify these natural resource values and costs in quantifiable, monetary terms but credible research on carbon storage is giving us an opportunity to quantify the values of maintaining stands of mature forests which support a wide range of valued resources.

I am hopeful that a Habitat Conservation Plan would recognize the changing values of our state's natural resources that we hand down to future generations.