

TO THE OREGON BOARD OF FORESTRY
July 24, 2018

Unfortunately we cannot attend your meeting today, but we hope you will include this letter along with other public testimony on the Forest Management Plan.

In past decades the Oregon Department of Forestry sought to manage Oregon's woodlands so that resource use was compatible with healthy ecosystems. The needs of wildlife habitat, watershed security, and recreation were integrated into harvest policies, at least in terms of public messaging.

In recent years some county governments have increased pressure on ODF to increase the scale and frequency of harvesting in order to route more timber revenues toward public services. Some want ODF to adopt the same plantation-style logging methods that are used by logging companies, in effect treating public forests simply as a source of money. This pressure is evidenced by clear-cutting of the few diverse second growth forests that are left (like the Homesteader and the Woody Wood Pecker tracts). The Homesteader was logged despite nearly 2,000 local residents who took time to testify in support of a more balanced approach to managing Oregon's public woodlands.

The timber industry should pay harvest fees that adequately support the funding of state and county needs. This would reduce the pressure to raise funds through more cutting, and enable ODF to restore balance to our state's management regime. Oregon should set the standard with smart, sustainable management of forestlands, not moving closer to plantation-style practices that have come to dominate the industry.

Thank you for your work on behalf of citizens.

Sincerely,

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