

21 July 2018

State Forester Daugherty, Chair Imeson and Board members,

I reside in Clatsop County, the only trust county that showed the good judgment and courage to opt out of the Linn County lawsuit against the State and ODF. The very least that Clatsop County deserves is to be heard and to be permitted to have some influence on the way our Clatsop forest is managed.

Our County Commission's appointed forest representative, Commissioner Kathleen Sullivan, regularly attends BOF meetings to speak for our county. She does this representing the adopted position of the Commission and with the urging of many Clatsop citizens. I believe that she has, numerous times, stated the following positions that the Clatsop County Commission has endorsed over the past several years:

We want a truly balanced forest plan that maintains an active timber program but that also helps restore endangered species, restores salmon habitat, and provides a recreation program reflective of Clatsop Forest's large financial contribution to the State;

We want our forest policies to reflect the long-term interests of our county. We are asking for harvest only at sustainable levels to reduce the chance of the boom/bust timber revenue patterns we have experienced in the past. Our citizens are very concerned about the aerial spraying of pesticides and we strongly support an HCP as a critical first step before any revisions to the FMP are considered.

Our Clatsop State Forest provides a significant part of the revenue that supports ODF operations, but boosting harvest levels is not the solution to ODF's fiscal problems. New funding mechanisms must be identified and aggressively pursued. The State legislature must help us find revenue alternatives to more intensive harvest methods that destroy wildlife habitat, increase the likelihood of forest fires and contribute significantly to climate change.

I ask that the guiding principles for any Forest Management Plan revisions clearly reflect these interests of the citizens of Clatsop County.

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