



November 8, 2018

Tom Imeson, Chair
Board of Forestry

Re: Trout Unlimited Comments on Habitat Conservation Plan Outcomes (Agenda item 3)

Dear Chair Imeson and Members of the Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on the Department of Forestry's recommendation regarding whether or not to proceed with Phase 2 of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) development process. My name is Chandra Ferrari and I am Senior Policy Advisor for Trout Unlimited (TU), a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of cold-water fishes, such as trout and salmon, and their habitats. Trout Unlimited has more than 300,000 members and supporters nationwide including over 3,000 in Oregon.

TU members regularly fish and recreate in streams that run through Oregon's State Forests. Streams like the Trask, Nehalem, Wilson, Kilchis, and Miami all support strong fisheries and have significant blocks of state forest land. Some of these streams are world-renowned for their fisheries and draw visitors from all over the country to experience them. The fish produced from these streams help support a robust fishing and recreation economy along the North Coast and elsewhere. However, some of these runs are also listed as threatened or endangered under the federal and/or state Endangered Species Acts. The runs that aren't listed are still not as resilient as they need to be to face the many challenges that have, and will continue to, come with climate change conditions and other stressors. Their numbers have dropped significantly from historic abundance numbers and certain forest management practices have contributed to these declines.

Stronger protections for streams to protect Oregon's iconic fish populations and ensure clean water and other ecosystem functions is necessary. Reduced use of forest management practices that harm these iconic fish populations such as clearcutting and significant pesticide application is necessary. TU strongly supports the Department of Forestry's (Department) recommendation to proceed with the development of a HCP because it provides an opportunity to take a holistic view of state forest lands, determine the value of these lands to fish, wildlife, and ecosystem services and create and implement a strategy to protect the most critical areas. An HCP will also provide more certainty around timber revenue over the long-term given the "no surprises" assurances of the HCP and the traditionally longer permit duration. Disconnecting high "habitat" value state forest land from harvest pressure is going to be a necessary part of any meaningful solution and therefore TU recommends that the Board take action to develop a strategy to diversify the funding sources for the Department as a parallel effort to the HCP process. TU also suggests that the HCP be finalized before the new Forest Management Plan

(FMP) so that it may inform FMP efforts. TU is optimistic that the HCP discussions can occur in a timely manner. Completion of this effort is long overdue.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment today and we look forward to working with the Board, the Department and other stakeholders as the HCP process proceeds.



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