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Dear Oregon Board of Forestry,

As a concerned Oregon resident, angler, public landowner, and student at Oregon State University, I urge you to adopt Habitat Conservation Plans for Western Oregon forests. Like our forests, the fish and wildlife species that call them home are a part of our heritage. If they are adopted, I hope that Habitat Conservation Plans are well-thought out, with valuable ecosystem services weighed alongside monetary benefit. I spend a significant amount of time on public and private forests and what I see in many places disturbs me. After heavy rains, I see small tributaries that do not require riparian buffers under current laws dumping muddy water into fish-bearing streams. All streams in a watershed are connected, fish-bearing or not. People also need clean water just as much as aquatic life. The density of roads that contribute to stream sedimentation and landslides is not sustainable for healthy forests. Dense, even aged stands of a single tree species provide little habitat diversity and a fire risk. When I take my children, and eventually, my grandchildren to our treasured state lands in the future, I hope to be able to show them a wild salmon. I hope to teach them how to catch and clean a trout and to identify a variety of wildlife and tree species. I want them to see how our timber harvesting practices support local economies without sacrificing the rest of our heritage.

Sincerely,

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