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State Forester Daugherty, Chair Imeson and Board members,

Good afternoon. I'm Helen Westbrook, until recently, a Clatsop County resident. I was fortunate to reside in the only Trust county that showed the good judgment and courage to opt out of the Linn County lawsuit. Clatsop County residents have demonstrated a strong preference for balanced management of our state forest and our county representatives heard that message. Many citizens have expressed concern about the amount of pesticide spraying in our forests and especially, the devastation of our home through the ever expanding areas of clear cutting.

I'm asking the Board of Forestry to actively support a Habitat Conservation Plan throughout the State Forests, to be initiated as soon as possible. We have an obligation to do whatever we can to avoid species extinction and our county has strongly opposed all efforts to deal with rare species by proactively destroying their habitat. An HCP could help insure sustainable harvest practices and minimize the prospect of paralyzing legal battles on these forest lands. An HCP is the pathway to providing long term security for our forests both environmentally and economically.

Finding alternative funding mechanisms for ODF is critical. I hope that the BOF will look to the governor and the legislature and advocate vigorously for the diversified funding mechanisms that are required to avoid the decimation of our state forests. The type of financial problems projected by ODF could be found in almost any business or agency that relies almost completely on one source for all its revenue. Oregonians must come to understand the choices and the need for public investment.

Citizens of Clatsop County believe that climate change is upon us and represents the ultimate challenge of our time. The gravity of this issue would recommend its inclusion in your guiding principles. And if there are to be changes to the FMP, one should surely be that carbon storage is a key goal for the State Forests.

Thank you for your considering the views of Clatsop County. We are grateful to the Board members, especially those newly appointed, for your willingness to serve all Oregonians through the Board of Forestry.

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