



## DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER TIM FREEMAN

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1036 SE Douglas Ave., Room 217 ➔ Roseburg, Oregon 97470

November 8, 2018

State Forester Daugherty,  
Chair Imeson,  
And Members of the Board of Forestry,

For the record, I am Douglas County Commissioner Tim Freeman. Thank you for allowing me to speak with you today about the Marbled Murrelet Technical Report.

We engaged with the Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission as they worked their way to a decision to retain “threatened” status for the Marbled Murrelet. We applaud that decision and appreciate all the things we have learned about the bird.

We recognize that positive population trends for Marbled Murrelet have been achieved with the combination of current state policies and protection, protection on federal lands, management of forage fish, and the creation of Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas in our near shore ocean.

We also recognize that there is very little scientific information about marbled Murrelet population in Oregon. We support the long-term research project OSU is undertaking to help us understand better the needs of this bird.

As you move forward in your deliberations, please consider that Douglas County owns approximately 4,400 acres of forestlands that we manage for timber production. Due to the circumstances described by Commissioner Sweet, the revenue generated by management of those lands has become incredibly important as we struggle to fund essential services for our citizens. These lands are managed under the Forest Practices Act.

Douglas County also receives revenues derived from timber harvests from county forest trust lands that are required to be managed for timber production by the Oregon Department of Forestry. These lands are also managed under the Forest Practices Act.

Many of these forested tracts—both county-owned and county-trust lands—are within 35 miles of the Oregon coastline and, therefore, would potentially be affected if the Board of Forestry chose to change the Forest Practices Act so that it reduces our ability to harvest timber.

The economies of Coastal Oregon counties depend on the woods products industry. The decision you will ultimately make matters a great deal to us, and I urge you to consider the economic and social impacts to counties and to our communities and citizens.

For Oregon's rural counties, the strength of our economies and our social fabric are linked to the vibrancy of our employment base. Jobs in the timber industry are some of our best jobs. They combine high wages with full benefits. It is VERY important for rural counties to protect these valuable jobs.

In Douglas County, the average private sector wage is just over \$27,000 per year. Jobs in the woods, in lumber manufacturing and trucking pay between \$45,000 and \$51,000 per year. By comparison, tourist sector jobs in Douglas County average just under \$17,000 per year.

So, for counties, the best outcome is to permit active management activities on as much land as possible.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Freeman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tim Freeman  
Douglas County Commissioner