

Text of testimony from Jay Haladay, resident of Arch Cape, on Norriston Height timber sale proposal.

Delivered September 4, 2019, Oregon State Forestry Board Meeting

Thank you for this second opportunity to discuss the potential Norriston Height's timber sale with you. My name is Jay Haladay and I'm a property owner immediately adjacent to this proposed ODF action.

You deal with a lot of issues at these meetings, and it's hard to focus on each item ODF is involved in. But in my prior role as a company CEO and Board Member, I learned that a well thought out, persistent and logical conversation brought better results than a rush to judgement. Given this, I'm requesting that you instruct ODF to postpone the proposed Norriston Height timber sale from the upcoming ODF planning cycle.

Since my July 24<sup>th</sup> testimony, I've spent a lot of time trying to educate myself on the issues surrounding this potential sale. To be honest, as a taxpayer and longtime resident of Oregon, I'm confused. We could discuss:

- How our legal discovery has uncovered that ODF seems to arbitrarily double back on its endangered species protocols and definition of the subject forested area to position this parcel for sale;
- Whether clear cutting is a preferred or antiquated method of harvesting timber when ecological, watershed and impact on an adjoining neighborhood community is potentially high;
- Or whether it is financially or ecologically sustainable that your agency is actively promoting the harvest of timber to fill short term financial gaps in agency or county budgets.

Rather, I'm going to focus on two issues: that your team has failed in its stakeholder outreach and engagement process relative to the proposed timber sale from the Norriston Height's proposed site; and, from what we understand, this proposed action has a very high likelihood of poisoning our neighborhood's only source of drinkable water.

As to ODF's neighborhood outreach methods, your agency is acting in violation of its transparency pledge. Your team failed to proactively reach any owners of immediately adjacent properties who use Norriston Heights as their sole water source prior to the close of the public comment period on May 2. This failure wasn't limited to reaching me, or a couple of my neighbors. Now that I have had some time, I have not talked to any property owners immediately west of this proposed timber sale who were proactively contacted prior to May 2. Members of your team continue to rely on stale explanations that we should have found out ourselves, or that our contact information wasn't available. As we have pointed out to ODF

staff members, when a little research is done by your team members they have been able to communicate with us. Part of being transparent is to admit when you were wrong, or that actions by you failed to produce the intended result. It's time for the ODF team to do so.

But more importantly, water contamination and chemical intrusion into civic drinking water supplies is a vital concern. The Flint Michigan water supply situation has really brought this to the headlines. Bringing it closer to home, ODF has not provided our neighborhood with sufficiently creditable information that the spraying of pesticides and herbicides that follows a potential clear cut won't poison our drinking water. We appreciate that reports from ODF staff members believe that our sole water source will be safe. But it's also natural that your staff members are motivated to put forward arguments consistent with the goal of a timber sale. We'd like to hire our own hydrologist and water quality specialists who can shed light on this issue in the context of a 20-30 year timeframe. This takes time but is valuable input for all of us.

ODF processes and procedures have and are failing relative to myself and our coastal neighbors. Postponing this important decision out of the current planning cycle will give us all time to come to a truly balanced decision, not one that is predetermined by ODF and forced on our neighborhood. It will also help the department improve its processes in situations like this. I look forward to your positive action on this request.

**Jay S. Haladay**  
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