

# Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee

Local Government Center  
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David Yamamoto - Chair Commissioner Tillamook County	John Sweet - Vice Chair Commissioner Coos County	Mary Faith Bell Commissioner Tillamook County	Kathleen Sullivan Commissioner Clatsop County	Jim Bernard Commissioner Clackamas County	Will Tucker Commissioner Linn County	Bob Main Commissioner Coos County
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September 4, 2019

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

For the record, I am Tillamook County Commissioner David Yamamoto and Chair of both the Council of Forest Trust Land Counties as well as Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee.

FTLAC wants to clearly articulate our priorities for the forest trust lands which are twofold: 1) returning as much revenue as possible to trust counties, schools and local service districts as well as providing funding for the Department of Forestry; and 2) ensuring the economic and social stability of our counties by retaining fully benefited, family wage jobs in the timber industry.

I know in the past I have highlighted how important state forest receipts and concomitant forest industry, fully benefited family wage jobs are to Tillamook County. In your consent agenda approved by you this morning was the 2019 Forest Report provided by Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI). OFRI was created by the Oregon Legislature in 1991 to improve public understanding of forest practices and products and to encourage sound forest management. In pursuing this mission, OFRI has sought to maintain an awareness of the state of the economic, environmental and social contributions of the forest sector to Oregon residents and businesses. I would like to present a few of their assessments of the economic contributions of the forest sector on a more Statewide level.

Total wood product sales in Oregon exceeded \$10.34B in 2016. The total number of wood processing facilities in Oregon was 360 in 1988 and is down to 172 in 2017. When looking at sawmills in Oregon, numbers have decreased by 53% during the period of 1988 to 2017 now down to 78 sawmills in 2017.

Oregon Employment Development Department data for the Oregon Forest Products Industry (FPI) as of 2016 show statewide a total of 60,020 jobs paying on average \$53,518 annually. I need to remind you that these are family-wage, fully benefited jobs. While some counties are larger than others when it comes to FPI employment, every county in the state of Oregon had some economic activity generated by the forest sector. It is also important to remember the economic multiplier effect when these timber dollars continue to be spent and re-spent, over and over again, especially important to smaller, rural counties.

The three counties with the largest volume of FPI employment are Lane, Douglas, and Jackson Counties. Lane County accounts for 7172 jobs totaling \$414M in payroll, not including benefits. Douglas County has 5561 jobs totaling \$291M and Jackson County has 5121 jobs totaling \$230M. Other notable counties include Multnomah with 4368 jobs totaling \$308M, Marion County with 4347 jobs totaling \$239M, Linn County with 3321 jobs totaling \$182M, Clackamas County with 3262 jobs totaling \$178M, Washington County with 3821 jobs totaling \$217M, Benton County with 1380 jobs totaling \$79M, Union County has 953 jobs totaling \$48M, Grant County with 579 jobs totaling \$28M, and Wallowa County with 254 jobs totaling \$13M. As you can see, from the largest of urban counties to much smaller rural counties, FPI employment is a critical component of the economic and social wellbeing of all Oregon Counties. I encourage you to take the time to fully understand the issues presented in the 2019 Forest Report provided by OFRI.

As you can see, the economic and social benefits derived from forest products reverberates throughout the State. I recall when speaking to you previously about where timber revenue goes when Tillamook County receives a harvest check, I told you that the county kept around 25% and the other 75% went to 20 special districts in Tillamook County. Mr. Justice, you inquired about the percent of the special districts overall budget were represented by these timber revenues? It turns out this is a very complicated question to answer as each special district's budget varies wildly compounded by the fact that each year, timber harvests occur in different areas of the state forest lands and the amount of revenue received by each special district is determined by the location of the particular harvests.

In this vein of needing additional information, FTLAC has been in conversation with the Dept. of Forestry to try to develop a much more detailed data base of the economic and social benefits to counties, special districts, and the State. This added dimension of the effects of timber dollars on all Oregon counties is an important piece of puzzle when it comes to the economic and social sustainability of all Oregonians. As Chair of FTLAC, I appreciate very much the collaborative efforts exhibited by everyone at the Department of Forestry. I feel a good working relationship with the Department is vital in developing policies that will continue to benefit the trust counties, the Department, and all Oregonians.

Also, of interest to FTLAC and included in your Consent Agenda was a discussion of the Nehalem River Scenic Waterway. Of greatest concern is the ability to control an invasive species of plant known as Japanese Knotweed. Knotweed is very prevalent on the banks of the Nehalem River and eradication and control have been an ongoing issue for several years. It is a concern of many that the scenic waterway designation may prohibit or restrict eradication and control protocols. A major problem with Knotweed is that it grows rapidly on the bank yet dies back in the winter months. This dieback allows the higher river flows to erode the banks of the river, spreading rhizomes downstream thereby further spreading this invasive species while the dense growth on the riverbanks does not allow any other species of plant to take hold. I am sure there are many people that utilize the Lower Nehalem River and marvel at the lush green banks unaware that this is an invasive species that truly must be eradicated. The unintended consequences of declaring a scenic waterway if this prohibits or restricts control efforts of this invasive species could devastate the Nehalem River Valley.

Immediately following my testimony, you have scheduled a review of Forest Conditions which includes a discussion of the staff Forest Carbon Report and Harvest Wood Products Recap. I am pleased to see that the initial results show that one of the most important features is that, as of the 2016 reporting period, Oregon's forests have been functioning as a net sink of carbon. Oregon's recent statewide rate of carbon flux from all forest pools across all ownerships and ecoregions is approximately 31 MMT of carbon per year. This estimate excludes net carbon sequestration from other sources such as harvested wood products which will appear in a separate analysis for this reporting period and should be completed by the end of calendar year 2019. It is also notable that tree mortality, especially from fire, is highest on productive forests owned by the USDA Forest Service that are withdrawn from harvest. This points up the great work the Oregon Department of Forestry does in fighting fires and why now, ODF is primary when fighting forest fires even in Federal forests.

It is also great to see that ODF Forest Health staff aim to ensure healthy forests for decades to come by assisting private forest landowners and other in the management goal of productive and sustainable forestry in the Pacific NW. ODF Forest Health staff provide specialized expertise in forest entomology, pathology, invasive species and other forest health issues. It is notable that in 2018, ODF Forest Health Unit detected over 675,000 acres with tree mortality and other damage during the statewide aerial survey, which is below the 10-year average of approximately 750,000 acres.

FTLAC looks forward to working with the Department and the Board on Western Oregon Streamside Protections. These important discussions need to rely on the most recent forest science such as the Trask Paired Watershed Study. In Tillamook County over the past 2 years, timber harvests have taken place in 2 separate community drinking water watersheds and the collaboration with both water districts and the timber harvest company have proved that timber harvest and clean drinking water are not mutually exclusive. In fact, both water districts have expressed appreciation for the collaborative relationships developed to make sure clean drinking water was the top priority.

Thank you for this opportunity to address you this morning. I would be more than happy to answer any question you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

David Yamamoto  
Tillamook County Commissioner  
Council of Forest Trust Lands Counties, Chair  
Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee, Chair