



November 2, 2006

Members of the Oregon Board of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

Washington County certainly has a vital interest in our state forests. With over 50,000 acres of state forest land, Washington County is the third largest county in terms of the number of acres of such lands. The population of Washington County is significantly higher than the population of any county with state forest lands. Our one-half million residents in Washington County make up almost 14% of the population of the state.

After reading the front-page article in the Oregonian this past Wednesday (November 1st), I was prompted to review some of the materials I have received from the Council of Forest Trust Land Counties (CFTLC). What I found concerns me.

In the April, 2006 minutes, for example, there are calls by CFTLC members to treat the state forest "like a well managed farm" and to "maximize wood outputs." One commissioner even suggested turning management over to the head of a local timber company. Others spoke in favor of getting "maximum biological potential" in terms of wood production from these lands. None of the commissioners spoke about the importance of wildlife habitat, water quality, or in favor of increased recreation (14 April 2006 CFTLC minutes).

The views expressed at the CFTLC meetings do not reflect my own. I prefer a more conservative approach to these lands. I mean no disrespect to commissioners from other counties. I simply mean to tell you that there is diversity in county needs and county commissioner views. Do not mistake the views of the CFTLC for a real consensus among all the counties with state lands. Our Board of Commissioners has not much discussed, and certainly not taken a position with respect to them.

Moreover, in the Department of Forestry poll cited in the November 1st Oregonian, residents ranked the following all more important than "[cutting] Timber": "Clean water, Wildlife habitat, Fish habitat, Hike or view wildlife, and Recreation areas". All but "Recreation areas" were ranked by State residents not just higher, but significantly higher than Timber.

Recent studies done for the Convention and Visitors Bureau of Washington County recommended that this County focus its tourism efforts in three areas: the wine industry, amateur sports/golf, and nature. Subsequently, our voters approved a 2 cent bed tax increase to be used for promotion of tourism. In my view Washington County does not need, nor its residents want, a more intensive focus on timber production on state lands. Rather, we need a forest that provides a broad range of benefits, including especially greater opportunities to enjoy nature and recreate, and protection of our water supply.

Board of County Commissioners

155 North First Avenue, Suite 300, MS 22, Hillsboro, OR 97124-3072
phone: (503) 846-8681 • fax: (503) 846-4545

Oregon Board of Forestry
November 2, 2006
Page 2

I understand that the Department of Forestry is now considering a process to revise the ten-year Implementation Plans, as well as possible revisions to the Forest Management Plan itself. I have two requests regarding potential revisions.

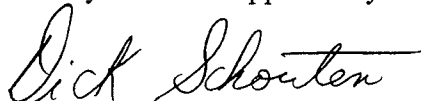
First, a much more ambitious recreation plan from the Department of Forestry be included in your revisions to the IPs. A comparative economic advantage for our county is our close proximity to state forests and to urban amenities. While there has been steady improvement in recreation opportunities along the HWY 26 and 6 corridors, I would like to see more ambitious plans developed that use the landscape-wide approach to state lands endorsed by Governor Kulongoski and former Governor Kitzhaber in their July 2004 letters to you. Washington County's already large population is increasing at a current average rate of about 1,000 residents per month.

Washington County is currently investigating a significant enlargement of the dam on Scoggins Creek. The current reservoir formed by that dam (Hagg Lake) is a popular recreational destination. As we ensure our water supply for the next century by raising Scoggins Dam, we should also plan to accommodate the ongoing recreation at Hagg Lake. State lands can play an important role in this planning, because (among other things) ODF manages a block of land along Scoggins Creek not far from Hagg Lake.

Second, I ask that ODF also give close consideration to Governor Kulongoski and Kitzhaber's call for "permanently designating lands to protect important and unique habitats." I have long felt that our state forests need some significant blocks of land that are designated for habitat protection for the long run.

Finally, let me note that Washington County has enjoyed a strong and positive relationship with the staff in the Forest Grove District office of the Department of Forestry. They are true professionals who keep us apprised of developments on the state lands in our county.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you today.



Washington County Commissioner Dick Schouten
(for District #1, Aloha, Beaverton and Cooper Mountain)

Cc: Washington County Board of Commissioners
Robert Davis, Chief Administrative Officer
Dennis Mulvihill, Government Affairs