

Comments to the Oregon Board of Forestry
June 3, 2009
By Rob Kirschner

Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. My name is Rob Kirschner and I am a 4th generation Pacific Northwest fly-fisherman and a resident of Oregon. My passion for wild steelhead has led me on a number of memorable trips to the rivers of the Tillamook State Forest. In fact, I caught my first Oregon winter steelhead on the Nehalem River. As long as wild steelhead return to these rivers, I most certainly will as well.

I am here to respectfully request the Board **NOT** to adopt the proposed Performance Measure with Species of Concern management plan. As the Board is aware, the State Forester is required to manage state forests to provide the Greatest Permanent Value for all of the people of Oregon. To meet this legislative mandate, the State Forester must manage these forests to provide social, economic **AND** environmental benefits. This plan, however, presents a significant imbalance in managing for these co-equal values. There are several concerns that I would like the Board to consider:

1. The proposed plan would significantly reduce environmental quality, fisheries and wildlife resources. For example, Attachment 1 to this Agenda item states that this plan will decrease maintenance and enhancement of native fish habitat from a high probability of success to only a moderate probability. There would also no longer be a high probability of maintaining and enhancing habitat for 2 species of concern. I am particularly concerned about the potential of the Board moving forward on this proposed plan before any Habitat Conservation Plan replacement strategies have been peer-reviewed and approved.
2. ODF staff failed to employ a modern economic analysis of these forests resources. I appreciate their recognition that ecosystem services and recreation are important to its economic considerations. I am troubled, however, by the staff's complete failure to incorporate any of these values into its economic analysis. Information regarding these values is available and ODF must consider them. For example, I encourage ODF staff to read "Economic Realities in the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests" by Thomas Power and Philip Ruder. This study can be found on the web.
3. ODF staff's recreation analysis only considered impacts to a narrow category of education, interpretation and other infrastructure-dependent activities whose funding are heavily tied to timber revenue. Activities that do not benefit from timber revenue – such as fishing – were not considered. Without considering impacts on these activities, ODF staff cannot accurately assess impacts to recreation.

Thank you for affording me this opportunity to speak. I appreciate your willingness to consider my comments.