



June 1, 2009

Board of Forestry
Oregon Department of Forestry
Salem, Oregon

Chairman Blackwell, Members of the Board, and State Forester Brown,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present the following comments to you. My name is Meryl Redisch and I am the Executive Director of Audubon Society of Portland, a non-profit organization with a Portland membership base of 11,000. Portland Audubon owns and manages forests in Multnomah, Clackamas and Lane Counties.

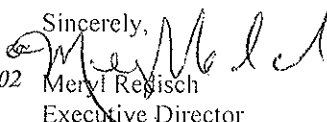
I am here today to request that the Board of Forestry not accept ODF staff's recommendations for changing the Forest Management Plan for the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests. Portland Audubon believes that the current plan provides considerably better protections for watershed health and fish and wildlife habitats now and will offer stronger protections in the future and more quickly. We are taking this position based on the following points, as per the Influence of Modeled Management Scenarios for Species of Concern.

- Under the Base Plan, there is a goal of 50% complex structure after 70 years versus 30% after 80 years under the Performance Plan. The additional percentage of complex structure improves the potential habitat that support Bald Eagles, Ospreys and Marbled Murrelets.
- The amount of older forest patches increases under the current management plan. These habitats are critical for species of concern including; American Marten, Red Tree Vole and the Northern-Spotted Owl.
- Alternately, the amount of young tree forests will increase under the Performance Plan, a serious concern given the preferred habitat requirements of Red Tree Voles, a species that relies on connectivity over fragmentation and is the main diet for the Northern Spotted Owl.
- The timber yield under the current plan is 142 million board feet per year. The new plan proposes an increase of 50 million board feet per year or nearly 40% more logging. We have already learned that the current harvest level is not sustainable. How then can increasing production be a practical outcome?
- Under the Performance Plan, Habitat Conservation and Owl Cluster Plans would be replaced with a Species of Concern Plan, which has not undergone a peer review.

More than the points noted above, is that for nearly every model scenario, the current plan improves habitat conditions for fish and wildlife and projects a better scenario for reaching these conditions in a shorter timeframe.

Portland Audubon will continue to advocate for a balanced approach in managing the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests. At this point, we believe that the current forest management plan does that.

Inspiring people to love
protect nature since 1902

Sincerely,

Meryl Redisch
Executive Director

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