



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Forestry

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"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

April 14, 2015

Honorable Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
Honorable Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
State Capitol
900 Court Street N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Devlin and Representative Rayfield,

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) appreciates the opportunity to provide information on the important relationship of the Department and Oregon State University, specifically the College of Forestry.

ODF directly manages 830,000 acres of state forest land. In that role we review available science, develop management strategies aligned with our mandates, implement and monitor those strategies for effectiveness, and adjust management strategies accordingly. In this "adaptive management loop" our role is to identify key research questions that will inform management decisions and collaborate with research organizations to ensure relevant research is conducted. In some cases, we provide direct funding to individual projects specifically tied to State Forests management objectives, or provide indirect funding through cooperative programs that serve a more diverse set of land managers (private, federal).

Oregon State University plays an important role in this system. OSU as a whole, and the College of Forestry in particular, provides a forum for us to discuss and develop our research priorities. They advise on formulating research questions, and in some cases conduct specific research on and related to State Forests. Recent examples include studies on Swiss needle cast, commercial thinning, and young stand silviculture studies. We depend on OSU to formulate our priority questions into researchable hypotheses, to design and implement the studies, and to produce peer reviewed reports and publications. In addition, the "tech transfer" aspect of the research is important to ensure that research results are directly communicated to forest managers and policy makers in a timely way.

Currently, the State Forests program has a number of research priorities, namely research that will inform: developing management and silvicultural strategies that are more cost effective and help us achieve financial viability; strategies that will protect and restore key watersheds; and strategies to contribute to stabilizing populations of numerous fish and wildlife species. Nested within these overall priorities is an interest and emphasis on the marbled murrelet. Murrelet nest site data is lacking and appears somewhat dated. Most nests were located in the 1990s and early 2000s, and since then there have been few efforts to supplement that data set to explore basic murrelet ecology. This basic ecology

information (e.g. nest site locations, and information associated with nest site selection and extent) is foundational information that can serve as the basis for additional management related research. OSU is well positioned to conduct this murrelet research because of its established relationship with various stakeholders, including ODF, their knowledge of Oregon forests and wildlife, and their resident expertise.

As OSU continues its important research, we look forward to ongoing discussions and collaboration in further developing and refining research priorities, designing and implementing those studies, and understanding how the results inform management.

Sincerely;



Doug Decker
Oregon State Forester

c: Richard Whitman, Governor's Natural Resources Policy Director
ODF Executive Staff
Geoff Huntington, College of Forestry, Oregon State University