

Emily Herbert <ewh1960@gmail.com>

Dear Chair Helm and Committee members,

I was born in rural Lakeview Oregon, a child of the Greatest Generation. My father was a forester devoting his career to the multiple use concept of federal land management. For many decades professional foresters were held in high regard for their skill and balance of the many interests in our treasured lands. But we've made many mistakes in forestry over the years:

- halting wildfires which are essential for forest health,
- allowing clear cutting instead of considering the total health of the soil and ecosystem for fish and wildlife as well as the value of the timber.
- moving to shorter and shorter harvest intervals,
- industry favoring technology which displaced workers and blamed the change on environmentalists instead of rightfully on their own mechanization which brings more roads and erosion, more damage to water systems and habitat.
- allowing industrial interests of short term goods, such as weed killers for brush and fertilizers, to have priority over spraying impacts on water, fish, bees, and cancer impacts for humans.
- misunderstanding that forest fires are more intrusive as particulate matter than adding to the CO2 burden of the atmosphere. (Studies reported by OSU estimate just 10% of the CO2 released from forests is caused by fire)
- calculating forests as a zero sum CO2 game.... gambling that what we do today with business as usual will result in living, successful forests in 80 years in spite of climate change. Would you invest in that gamble?

The bill before you offers new hope for our Oregon forests which are the best living carbon sequestration beings on the planet, along with their roots and the soil they live in. The proposed changes will create more jobs in the forests where they are needed for more sustainable practices. Water will be protected but not at the costs of banning practices which are sometimes needed to halt invasives. New roads will be allowed as old roads and their erosive proclivity are reclaimed The total health of the forest will be considered. It is time to re balance the interests of Oregon forests so that our water is protected and the common good restored for all beings not just short term gain.

At the very least, we need to act NOW for the well being of our water in the face of more intense storms bringing cycles of severe flooding and drought.

I greatly appreciate the integrity and knowledge of the legislators bringing this bill forward, Andrea Salinas and Karin Power. And I am confident that my father, John Herbert, one of the first promoters of a ski area at Mt. Bachelor and lifelong public servant in the US Dept of Forestry, would join me in supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

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