

Forestry is an essential part of our Oregon economy, and continuing to improve our sustainable practices makes us stronger and healthier.

I'm writing to encourage you to pass HB 2357 eliminating OFRI which has been a poor steward of our funding.

Recent reporting from OPB, The Oregonian, and ProPublica:

OFRI has worked to silence scientific research - after groundbreaking forest climate research conducted by faculty at Oregon State University's College of Forestry was published in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, OFRI executives lobbied legislators and university officials to convince them that the research was flawed. The study's author called it an attack on academic freedom.

OFRI's advertising misleads Oregonians - OFRI misleads Oregonians to believe that our logging laws are strong despite research evidence against it. Oregon's logging laws are the weakest on the West Coast. Many communities drinking water has been damaged or markedly by industrial logging with inadequate protections. Oregon has lost out on millions of dollars in federal grants because of our weak logging laws that allow harm to fish habitat.

And OFRI Provides 'education' to school children. This can and should be provided by neutral parties such as the OSU extension service or through a state curriculum.

Thank you for your consideration,
Marcia Schneider