



Hancock
Forest
Management®

TO: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery
FROM: Cindy Robert, Hancock Forest Management
DATE: April 9, 2021
RE: SB 762

Hancock Forest Management appreciates your efforts to continuously work toward implementation of the Wildfire Recovery Council's recommendation. We support efforts to adopt policies that put into practice these recommendations as soon as possible as fires continue to enlarge and devastate our State.

Hancock Forest Management is the second largest private forestland manager in the U.S. and the second largest in both Oregon and Washington, with more than 600,000 acres in Oregon and more than 400,000 acres in Washington. We strive to practice a land stewardship ethic that integrates the growing, managing, and harvesting of trees with environmental conservation. Our practices protect soil, air, water quality, biological diversity, wildlife habitat, aquatic habitat, recreation and aesthetics. Sustainable forestry practices allow us to actively manage and protect our timberland in a way that maintains and enhances economic, community & natural resource values.

Hancock Forest Management supports addressing both causes and consequences of wildfire. With respect to causes, the scientific consensus is clear, the growth of wildfire is due to vegetation change, population growth in the wildfire-urban interface and climate. We support policies that address all three of these fundamental causes.

With regard to vegetation management, we fully support the Wildfire Council recommendations to restore 5.6 million acres of forest and rangelands. As we pinpoint these treatments, due consideration must be given to the protection of private forest assets. Restoration projects should target protection of private forest lands within the entire landscape. In the forest neighborhood, there are different owners and ownership objectives, but all impact each other and collaboration must occur to meet risk reduction goals.

The best way to protect the forests is through establishing wildfire policy that takes into account the Wildfire Council recommendation regarding:

- Risk-based wildfire protection planning for the State
- Statewide mapping of wildfire risks
- Regional needs and risk characteristics
- Land use, zoning and building decisions with attention to reducing wildfire risk
- Defensible space requirements
- Best practices and developed standards like those found in the international Wildland-Urban Interface code
- Forestland fuel treatment programs to decrease risk of fire
- Smoke mitigation plans
- Increased funding for suppression
- Federal assistance in protecting forests
- ODF & State Fire Marshall partnerships
- Ongoing state policy coordination

Hancock Forest Management is pleased to see these issue addressed in SB 762 and looks forward to more discussions on wildfire policy in coming weeks. We urge you to implement and fund wildfire mitigation measure without unnecessary delays or additional prolonged discussions. We can adjust, adapt and improve on aspects of policy adopted as we go, but we must start now.

Thank you for your public service.