

House Committee on Revenue
Chair Nathanson
Vice Chairs Pham and Reschke

HB 2357A

My name is David Eisler I am a resident of Lane County. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in favor of HB 2357A I have owned forestland in the Coast Range since the late 1970s. For much of that time our forest management has been certified FSC and we have tended to thin and select harvest about every five years. I operate a small sawmill that produces hardwoods for furniture and cabinetry. I know that there are other family forestland owners who manage their forests for a wide range of outcomes, such as wildlife, forest health, aesthetics, a range of forest products and resources and as a legacy of a healthy forest for their children and grandchildren.

Back in the 1970s we said we were doing "sustainable" forestry. That term was unfortunately co-opted into timber industry jargon. More recently the term "ecoforestry" has become popular since Jerry Franklin and Norm Johnson designed the Northwest Forest Plan and now with their recent Ecological Forest Management text book students of forestry are becoming exposed to another model. Over the last twenty years I have been working with The Siuslaw National Forest's Collaborative Stewardship Group on the Forest Service's variable density thinning forest restoration program. Ecological forest management is an important approach used by our federal forestland agencies. What I find particularly disturbing is that OFRI has never recognized this "alternative" forest management. For instance, while OFRI did not contest the data and conclusions on clear cutting impacts to water quality and volume in OSU's Forest To Tap research, OFRI stopped short of offering foresters and the public informative options that include a low impact management approach. In fact, research strongly suggests that ecoforestry management offers our best hope for our future functioning forests as we enter a more dramatic phase of global warming. OFRI has failed to offer small woodland owners that important forward looking information.

And OFRI has failed to provide land owners with warnings about the impacts of plantation forestry and the risks of monocrop stands in fire behavior and disease spread. One of OFRI's website videos states that good forestry manages for future needs and that is certainly true. But our future needs are quickly shifting. The large number of small woodland owners in Oregon need timely information based on unbiased research to guide their efforts in managing their forestland into the future including options such as ecoforestry management, carbon markets, carbon banks, conservation easements.

I feel it is an important step forward to restructure the funding that has gone to OFRI over these many years to agencies and programs that will more effectively address the changing needs of Oregon's small forestland owners.