

Submitter: Christopher Farrar

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB795

I oppose SB 795 and ask that you do not move this bill out of committee. As a resident of Clatsop County it is clear to me that our county government and staff do not have sufficient resources to properly manage 154,000 acres of forest for the Greatest Permanent Value for the citizens of Oregon. The forest here in Clatsop County provides recreational, ecological, mineral, water, and fishery resources, as well as carbon sequestration capacity and esthetic qualities. These beneficial attributes belong to all Oregonians not just the people of Clatsop County. State Forests should continue to be managed by State government which has a proven record of understanding the meaning of Greatest Permanent Value and how that can be delivered to Oregon. ODF has diligently worked for several years developing the much need Habitat Conservation Plan. It is time to implement that plan to address the need to do more for protection of endangered species and to improve forest habitat for all species living in State Forests. Clatsop County or any other county does not have the ability to carryout the planning, science, modelling, implementation, management, and monitoring of such complex projects.

The concept of conveying State Forest lands to counties is ill-conceived, misguided, and unwarranted. If carried out our State Forests would revert back to the mismanaged and degraded landscapes they were in the 1930s before they were deeded to the State, not because the counties don't value the forests and wish to preserve their great natural values but because the counties lack the capacity to properly manage them for all Oregonians.