

Submitter: Karen Sjogren
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

I have lived in Oregon for 34 years and enjoyed its forests as a hiker and birdwatcher. I have also made public comments on federal and state forestry practices over that time period, and attended public meetings on state forest lands. I was thrilled that ODF and the forestry board finally recognized that our state forests have immense value for purposes other than timber production, i.e., recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and carbon storage. With that premise in mind, ODF, in concert with many environmental groups, crafted a Habitat Conservation Plan that provides balanced protection for 17 ESA listed species found in state forests. While this plan waits federal approval, management by ODF is in accordance with its provisions. What truly terrifies me about HB 3103 is that it removes management under the HCP until it is approved by the federal government, which, considering the disarray and staff reductions at federal agencies, could be never. In the meantime, management would consist of timber harvest according to set rules that mandate a certain harvest level. This renders moot the HCP and invites another round of lawsuits. Please defeat this bill in committee and keep management under HCP, and also in accordance with the 2021 Climate and Carbon Plan, which recognizes the value of our forests for carbon storage.