

Submitter: Joel and Laine Schipper

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

Please do NOT undermine the gains we've made with the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan. Specifically, HB 3103 would undermine protections for Oregon's state forests by putting clearcuts above fish, wildlife, clean water, recreation and other values that Oregonians cherish in our state forests. This includes halting implementation of the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan that we have fought so hard for.

The way in which HB 3103 harms the conservation gains to date include:

1. HB 3103 prioritizes timber harvest over other values on state forests. HB 3103 requires the state forester to set timber harvest targets by rule.
2. The HCP provides balanced protection for 17 species of salmon and wildlife that are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. ODF is currently following the guidelines of the HCP, while awaiting final approval by federal agencies. HB 3103 would prohibit ODF from using the HCP until it is approved by federal agencies, which would allow clearcuts in habitat protected by the HCP.
3. HB 3103 prevents ODF from implementing its Climate Change and Carbon Plan. HB 3103 requires a rule establishing 10-year harvest levels that would preempt the Climate Plan.
4. HB 3103 would result in more litigation. HB 3103 would establish a new right to sue the Oregon Department of Forestry over state forest timber harvest plans to obtain court orders that compel more clearcuts on public land.

My wife and I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, we encourage this committee to focus on measures that would increase carbon storage in our state forests and safeguard our public resources for our children and future generations.

Please don't let this bill pass out of committee.