

RE: New State Forester

I'm writing to urge all the members of the board to focus on hiring a new state forester who is committed to the following:

- Responds to the threats of climate change and implements the Climate Change and Carbon Plan.
- Fulfills the Department of Forestry's goal of being a [national leader in climate-smart forestry](#).
- Protect communities from wildfires.
- Implement the Private Forest Accord.
- Adopt a new Western Oregon State Forest Management Plan.
- Finalize the Habitat Conservation Plans for private forests and western Oregon state forests.
- Restructure the ODF's revenue model.
- Restore the public's trust in the agency to operate with transparency, accountability and respect for all people.

Clear-cutting trees carries with it negative environmental and ecological impacts:

1. **Loss of Biodiversity:** Clear-cutting destroys habitats for many species of plants and animals, leading to a decline in biodiversity. Species that rely on specific trees or forest structures may face extinction.
2. **Soil Erosion:** Trees play a crucial role in anchoring soil with their roots. Without them, soil can become loose and erode more easily, leading to loss of fertile land and sedimentation in nearby waterways.
3. **Water Cycle Disruption:** Forests help regulate the water cycle by absorbing rainfall and releasing moisture through transpiration. Clear-cutting can disrupt this balance, leading to increased flooding and reduced groundwater replenishment.
4. **Carbon Emissions:** Trees absorb carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. Clear-cutting releases stored carbon back into the atmosphere, exacerbating global warming.
5. **Altered Ecosystems:** The removal of all trees can disrupt local ecosystems and impact other flora and fauna, leading to changes in plant species composition and the overall health of the environment.
6. **Increased Pollution:** The runoff from disturbed land can carry pollutants into rivers and lakes, affecting water quality and aquatic life.
7. **Impact on Local Communities:** Many local communities rely on forests for resources, recreation, and cultural practices. Clear-cutting can negatively affect their livelihoods and cultural heritage.

While clear-cutting may have short-term economic benefits, it is essential to balance these with sustainable forestry practices that protect the environment and preserve ecosystems for future generations. Sustainable alternatives, such as selective logging, can mitigate many of these negative effects.

I understand that our society often prioritizes profit, but as the saying goes, "you can't take it with you when you die." If we harm our planet, the pursuit of wealth becomes meaningless, as we won't be around to spend it.

Thank you,

Felicia Bryant