

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

Chair Helm, Chair Owens, Vice Chair McDonald and Members of the Committee  
I am writing to oppose HB3103. As an Oregon resident and ecologist, I support the many values that our State Forests provide to all Oregonians—clean water, habitat for listed species and all forest-dwelling species, recreation, climate mitigation by storing and sequestering carbon, as well as timber harvest.

I am especially concerned about the provisions in HB3103 that would allow, and perhaps require, harvest in the set-aside conservation areas for endangered species habitat as part of the Western State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan until approved by the federal agencies. The plan is not yet approved by the federal agencies, and there may be delays due to current administration priorities, but the Department of Forestry is already following the HCP guidelines, to maintain and enhance habitat for the listed species covered in the Plan—including Northern Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelet, and several salmonid species. If these conservation areas are logged before the Plan is finalized, they will no longer support these endangered species, likely violating the Endangered Species Act.

The State Forester already sets timber harvests, but this would incorporate rulemaking for the harvests, which reduces the ability of the State Forester and Department of Forestry to consider all forest values, as required by the “Greatest Permanent Value” for state forest management.

This bill, if passed into law, would limit the ability of the Department of Forestry to implement the Climate Change and Carbon Plan passed by the Board of Forestry in November 2021. The draft Forest Management Plan under development includes management strategies for climate-smart forestry, which I support.

Please vote against HB3103, and do move it out of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water.

Thank you, Darlene Chirman, Portland Oregon