

Submitter: Helena Birecki

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3103

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-chair McDonald, and Members of the Committee,

Did you know that large private landowners own 700% more forestland than the area of all of Oregon state forests?

The state should not prioritize large timber interests over other forest benefits in the tiny amount of forest that Oregon controls. Oregonians want the state of Oregon to protect wildlife habitat, waterways, and opportunities to spend restorative time in our beautiful forests. That's why Oregon law requires the state forester to balance timber harvest with other interests that secure "the greatest permanent value" to the state, and the law specifically notes the importance of fish and wildlife, protection for drinking water and against floods and erosion, and allowing recreation.

The state forester already sets 10-year harvest level goals. What this bill would do is change the way those goals are created to disregard the health of our ecosystems, our water sources, and our opportunity to enjoy Oregon's natural splendor.

Please Do Not pass HB 3103 out of committee.

Thank you,
Helena Birecki

References:

https://site.oregonforests.org/sites/default/files/2019-01/OFRI_2019-20_ForestFacts_WEB.pdf

<https://wildsalmoncenter.org/2016/02/20/balance-oregon-forest-management/>