

## Oppose HB 3103

Good morning, Chairs, vice chair, and members of the committee!

For the record, my name is Casey Kulla and I am here on behalf of Oregon Wild. I urge to reject HB 3103. With respect to the introduction by Rep Owens, the dash-one amendment contains plain, problematic language in multiple places. If those pieces were removed, the bill would be completely redundant with ODF's current planning and management.

You don't have to actually do it, but maybe think it: raise your hand if you have been to the Tillamook State Forest. What about the Clatsop? Now, raise your hand if you've visited any of the blocks of the Santiam State Forest just southeast of here?

If you haven't been to one of these places, let's make a date and go visit them, but especially the Santiam State Forest. Despite much of it being inside the Labor Day fire perimeters, different stands, whether just above Detroit Lake or down near Gates, responded incredibly differently. As you climb Monument Peak Rd, you can see dense tree farms completely immolated followed by old trees scorched but not killed. You can step off the highway at Detroit Lake into blocks of the Santiam that look completely dead, only to discover that the forest is vigorously, riotously, outrageously, loudly coming back beneath those charred, fire-killed trees.

The reason I tell you a story of fire and forests is that these are real places that you are being asked to wipe clear. They are places that bring joy to people alongside creating jobs and fiber. The reality of this bill is that it would wipe away the joy while bringing devastation to forests that have been managed over time for both the joy and the timber. If you choose a policy that wipes away the joy, we should at least go there so you know what you're voting to destroy.

The reality is that HB 3103-1 remains an attempt to reverse the not-yet approved state forest habitat conservation plan, cloaked as the benign "establish sustainable harvest levels." The authors hope you don't get past that phrase to actually considering the ramifications for the public forests of Oregon of the original and the dash-one version of the bill. The state forest

HCP is just one of three critically-important habitat conservation plans in Oregon under consideration by the federal government (the state forest HCP, the Elliott HCP, and the private forest aquatic HCP).

Each one of these habitat conservation plans has a long, tortured history filled with thousands of hours of talking, negotiating, and resolution. Each represents a bargain to balance commercial timber harvest and forest values. Deals are always imperfect, but I hope you will join me—or at least join our Governor—in supporting and not undermining Oregon's pending HCPs. In these chaotic times created by the incoming Presidential administration, timelines for acceptance of each HCP are up in the air.

Please do not undermine the state forest HCP. I urge you to reject this ill-conceived bill.