

Submitter: Karen Sjogren  
On Behalf Of: Myself  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Natural Resources  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5521

By my written testimony I am asking that the Private Forest Accord be fully funded as part of the Oregon Department of Forestry's budget ( SB 5521). Specifically, the SFISH grant program for small forest land owners should receive \$10 million dollars, and the Adaptive Management Program, which evaluates the effectiveness of new rules, should receive \$6 million dollars. (para). There are over 10 million acres of private forest lands in Oregon, from small woodlots to large industrial operations. As someone who has commented on dozens of federal timber sale EAs, I know that wildlife species and salmonids in particular need protection on private as well as public lands to recover and become thriving populations. With this understanding, 13 timber industry groups and 13 conservation/fisheries groups convened and over several decades crafted a plan which significantly improves water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and forest health. (para) This plan was approved by the state legislature in 2022, but that is not sufficient. ODF must come up with a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan by the end of 2027, or management reverts to pre-Plan standards, with only 20 foot buffers on major streams and none on headwaters or seasonal streams. Please fund the aforementioned programs so that the HCP can be developed on time.