

Submitter: Chris Dodge

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Natural Resources

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5521

Hi Co-Chairs Frederick and Levy, and Members of the Committee,

The Private Forest Accord (PFA) was a big step forward in updating Oregon's logging rules for private forestlands. It's the result of a unique collaboration between 13 timber industry representatives and 13 conservation and fishing groups, who worked together to push for broad changes to state law. The agreement provides strong new protections for fish, stream-dwelling amphibians, wildlife near streams, and for the clean, cold water that so many rely on.

One of the key parts of the deal is that Oregon needs to get a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan in place for over 10 million acres of private forestlands.

If the state doesn't have a federally approved Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan by 2027, the new rules will be rolled back to the outdated standards which is alarming and totally unacceptable.

That's why I'm asking for your support to fully fund two important programs in the Oregon Department of Forestry's budget (SB 5521). The SFISH grant program, which helps small forestland owners, should be funded at \$10 million, and the Adaptive Management Program, which tracks how well the new rules are working, should be fully funded at \$6 million.

Thanks so much for considering this request!