

Submitter: Heather Ikeler

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5521

I am writing in support of SB 5521. So much time, effort, thought and care has gone into the PFA over the years, it would be utterly shameful for it to be undermined by lack of funding.

The Private Forest Accord is a landmark agreement that has been endorsed and implemented by the Oregon legislature. By bringing together conservation and timber interests to provide greater protections of natural habitat and clean cold water, and drafting a Habitat Conservation Plan that will win approval from Federal agencies, Oregon timber companies will have better practices and more certainty that their operations can proceed smoothly under the law.

Allocating money to implement the projects needed under Private Forest Accord is the necessary next step to insure the PFA goals are met.

The SFISH grant program for small forestland owners should be fully funded at \$10 million and the Adaptive Management Program designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the new rules should be fully funded at \$6 million.

ODF budget request is \$832 million, of which 43% is designated for fire protection. The requested \$10 million is a tiny percentage(1.2%) of the budget. Increasing the allocation by \$6 million will still be under 2% of the total budget.

The Private Forest Accord (PFA) was a landmark agreement regarding Oregon's logging rules on private forestlands. Thirteen timber industry representatives and 13 conservation and fishing groups came together to negotiate broad reforms to state law. It provides significant new protections for fish, stream-dwelling amphibians, wildlife in the forests adjacent to streams, for cold clean water, and for the people who rely on these resources. A key part of the agreement calls for the state of Oregon to get a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan across more than 10 million acres of private forestlands. However, without a federally approved Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan by 2027, the new rules roll back entirely to the outdated standards. Please support full funding in the Oregon Department of Forestry's budget (SB 5521) for two critical PFA programs. The SFISH grant program for small forestland owners should be fully funded at \$10 million and the Adaptive Management Program designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the new rules should be fully funded at \$6 million.

Thank you,
Heather Ikeler