

Submitter: Carol Pinegar

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5521

Co-chairs Frederick and Levy and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of SB5521 and asking for an amendment. Allocating \$10 million for Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat Program (SFISH) grants under the Private Forest Accord, per Section 6 of this bill is a good start. I ask that you add in another \$6 million for evaluation of the Adaptive Management Program, to evaluate the new rules.

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 ensure the PFA goals are met.

The Oregon Dept of Forestry 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.

If the PFA does not move forward as planned, then we lose all the good work and forest protections because the regulations will roll back to the original Oregon Forest Practices Act. Please amend the budgeted amounts in this bill and move it forward for the protection of Oregon's state forests.

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(she/her/ella)