

Submitter: Elise West

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

HB 4105 is expensive. Based on 2025 fiscal impact estimates from an identical bill, implementation would require \$1.1 million of initial funding to start this program. The new right to sue the ODF would also cost the state significant resources in ODF and DOJ staff time and legal fees, estimated to upward of ten million dollars per biennium. HB 4105 is unnecessary. The State Forester already sets sustainable harvest levels consistent with the mandate to manage state forests for "Greatest Permanent Value" for all Oregonians and reports this to the public. The ODF has exceeded its harvest objectives over the past 10 years. Revenues from state forests are expected to increase over the next ten years. The ODF is currently evaluating plans, with the support of timber dependent counties, to increase timber harvest and revenue from state forests for the next ten years in a way that is consistent with the state forest Habitat Conservation Plan. It is an unnecessary and expensive waste of time and money that will destroy the economic powerhouse that our forests are, as intact forests. Intact, they drive a massive \$550M outdoor economy, support 10,500+ jobs, are home to six salmon stronghold rivers, are home to 17 endangered or at-risk species, provide clean drinking water for 500,000+ people, and those are only a few of the many benefits. For too long, the timber industry has called the shots and clearcut Oregon's state forests. Now, in a rapidly warming climate with increased temperatures driving threatened salmon runs and imperiled wildlife to extinction, industry still wants to increase clearcutting on state forests. The industry has tried to stop, stall, and discredit efforts to reform the way ODF manages this shared resource. It's time to stop them.