



Date: February 9, 2026

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

From: State Forest Coalition Organizations

RE: Please oppose HB 4105

Chair Helm, Chair Owens, Vice Chair McDonald and Members of the Committee:

On the behalf of the State Forest Coalition, including the groups signed below, we ask that you oppose HB 4105.

HB 4105 would be a significant departure from current management practices for state forests by requiring the state forester to adopt a timber harvest level by rule, prioritizing timber harvest over all other values on state forest land. It would require state forests to be managed primarily for logging at the expense of clean water, salmon and wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration and recreation.

HB 4105 upsets the current balance requiring state forests to be managed for multiple values to benefit all Oregonians and elevated timber harvest over other laws, rules and policies. Section 1, Subsection 4 requires the state forester to only “consider”, not comply with, other laws, rules and policies. These include plans and policies to protect clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreation, and measures to increase carbon sequestration.

The bill would undermine the Western Oregon State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The HCP provides balanced protection for 17 species of salmon and wildlife that are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

It would also undermine ODF’s ability to implement its Climate Change and Carbon Plan (Climate Plan) on state forests. Adopted by the Board of Forestry in 2021, the Climate Plan’s goal is to establish Oregon as a national leader in climate-smart forestry, including longer rotation ages between harvests and a carbon market program for state forests. HB 4105 requires a rule establishing 10-year harvest levels that would override the Climate Plan.

HB 4105 may not require the harvest rule to be consistent with the Governor’s Executive Order 25-26 to preserve an additional 10% of Oregon’s land and waters in ten years, with state forests leading by example.

In section 3, HB 4105 would result in more litigation by creating a new right to sue the ODF over state forest timber harvest plans and to obtain court orders that effectively compel more clearcuts on public land. The bill creates a special right for recipients of timber revenue to sue the state forester over the implementation of the harvest rule. Restricting access to the courts regarding state forest management would conflict with the mandate in ORS 530.050 to manage state forests for the “greatest permanent value” to the state, not just recipients of timber revenue.

“Greatest permanent value” is further defined in OAR 629.035.020 as “healthy, productive, and sustainable forest ecosystems that over time and across the landscape provide a full range of social, economic, and environmental *benefits to the people of Oregon*.” (Emphasis added) HB 4105 would only benefit a subset of the people of Oregon and, thereby, conflict with existing legal requirements.

Section 3, Subsection 2 may also violate the equal protection clause of the Oregon Constitution. Article 1, Section 20, states, “No law shall be passed granting to any citizen or class of citizens privileges, or immunities, which, upon the same terms, shall not equally belong to all citizens.” HB 4105 restricts judicial remedies to only recipients of revenue from state forests, a small subset of “the people of Oregon.”

Finally, HB 4105 is unnecessary. The state forester already sets ten-year harvest level goals that are required to be consistent with all other state forest values, policies and plans. The ODF issues annual reports on its progress in meeting these harvest levels and has a solid track record of meeting or exceeding harvest objectives over time. An active wildfire season may temporarily pull ODF staff away from processing timber sales in order to protect lives and property, but the staff has always been able to catch up once the fire season is over. Our groups may not always agree with the ODF’s forest management decisions, but there’s no denying their proven track record of meeting harvest objectives.

For the reasons stated above, we ask that you please oppose HB 4105. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Joe Liebezeit
Statewide Conservation Director
Bird Alliance of Oregon

Eliza Walton
Coalition Director
Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Bob Rees
Executive Director
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