

House Bill 4105 ~ Relating to reliable forest management outcomes; declaring an emergency.

Sponsored by Representative OWENS, Senator MCLANE, Representatives BREESE-IVERSON, HELM, Senator NASH; Representatives BOICE, CATE, HARBICK, LEVY B, MCDONALD (Presession filed.)

HB 4105 is scheduled for a hearing this Wednesday (February 11, 2026) at 1 p.m. in the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

Sections 3 and 4 of the Bill indicate that the Bill will open extensive areas of State Forest to commercial clear-cut logging.

Financially preferable alternatives:

1) Selling Carbon Credits

The Elliot State Forest, 83,000 acres located inland between Reedsport and Coos Bay, is currently being transformed into the Elliot State Research Forest. Under that initiative the forests and lands are being assessed for engagement in carbon sequestration credit markets. Carbon credit broker ***Anew Climate*** is currently conducting studies to determine the market value of the climate warming carbon being taken up and stored there. Though carbon credits currently sell for as little as \$7 per metric ton of carbon stored, ***Anew Climate's*** credits are selling for \$100 - \$160 per ton due to their markedly unusual reliability (thus far, globally most forest carbon credit schemes have been notably unreliable).

In a 2019 study, scientists working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station and the Oregon Department of Forestry found that Oregon's coastal forests sequester approximately 1,800 metric tons per acre. Thus, the Elliot State Research Forest may generate one time carbon credit payments \$14.9 billion to \$23.9 billion.

Clatsop and Tillamook State Forest include 518,000 acres. If the State were to sell one-time carbon credits for all of the coastal State forestlands, Oregon would raise between \$93.2 billion and \$149.2 billion at current credit value. These credits would not sell all at once. The State could potentially release five-percent of lands per year to the carbon market raising \$4.6 to \$7.4 billion per year.

Additionally, the 2019 study cited above found that Oregon coastal forests continue to sequester about a net 30 million metric tons of carbon each year as they recover from

clear-cutting. That alone could translate to \$3 to \$4.8 billion in new carbon credits each year.

And, by allowing these forests to regenerate revenues to the State from improved game take and tourism would boost local economies while increasing resilience to climate change which threaten dry season water supply and wet season flooding.

Cited work: Christensen, GA, AN Gray, O Kuegler, & AC Yost. 2019. *Oregon Forest Ecosystem Carbon Inventory: 2001-2016 Report*. U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, and the Oregon Department of Forestry

2) Continue lumber production through horse logging

Horse logging provides a plethora of benefits not supplied by commercial logging.

Horse logging:

Is selective, a practice which enhances forest development and further carbon sequestration.

Is more labor intensive, thus providing more employment per million board feet produced

Is higher skilled than machine logging and so promises higher wages.

Does not cause soil compaction, thus maintaining soil health and hydrological function while decreasing erosion.

Emits far less carbon than machine-based logging

Would allow continued carbon credit sales in treated forests

Would decrease understory vegetative thickness and so decrease forest flammability