

Submitter: Karen Sjogren
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or HB4105
Topic:

I oppose this bill. I have followed state forest management since I moved here over 30 years ago and I thought we had finally responded to all stakeholders with the Habitat Conservation Plan, which generates considerable income from timber harvest on a principle of sustained yield but also respects and protects other forest values. Our state forests comprise 600,000 acres, spread throughout the state. They provide drinking water for 500,000 people and are home to six salmon stronghold rivers. They provide needed habitat for 17 species which are endangered or of concern. And the recreational value of these forests, fairly close to urban areas, can not be overstated. So why does the timber industry want to try to jam this bill through again during the short session? I guess it's because they don't think we're paying attention. As a taxpayer, I don't want the state to shell out 1.1 million dollars to set up mandatory logging levels. I don't want the state to use money to oppose the inevitable lawsuits that will result from an over emphasis on logging. I don't want more clear cuts or logging next to rivers or in sensitive areas, which quotas would result in. I don't want the timber industry to be able to sue if they don't get what they want. Please nip this bill in the bud and get on with measures which concern the welfare of all Oregonians.