

Submitter: Paul Howard

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

The following points in the text below has been pre-written but I fully agree with it's content. As a rifle and bowhunter, hiker, backpacker and outdoor photographer I oppose HB 4105 since the last thing Oregon needs is more clearcutting.

Thanks.

About HB 4105

HB 4105 would force the Department of Forestry to prioritize timber harvest over all other values on state forest land.

It would have a negative impact on clean drinking water, salmon and wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration and recreation.

The bill would undermine 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). HB 4105 requires a rule establishing 10-year harvest levels that would override the Climate Plan.

The harvest rule could also undermine 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.

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. This could cost the state millions of dollars.

About Oregon's state forests

Western Oregon holds more than 600,000 acres of state forestlands, from the Santiam to the Tillamook and Clatsop, the outskirts of Salem and Portland to the Pacific Coast.

Our forests support clean flowing rivers for salmon, critical habitat for a wide range of wildlife, recreation areas, and a robust outdoor economy.

Drive a massive \$550M outdoor economy and support 10,500+ jobs

Are home to six salmon stronghold rivers and 17 endangered or at-risk species

Provide clean drinking water for 500,000+ people

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.

The bill would create a new right for timber companies, counties and tax districts to sue the ODF for alleged violations of the timber harvest rule, creating endless litigation and limiting the ODF's ability to manage state forests for multiple values.

The importance of protecting mature and old-growth (legacy) forests in Oregon
Oregon's mature and old-growth forests (also called legacy forests) are widely recognized for their essential role in fighting climate change, protecting watershed integrity, and safeguarding fish and wildlife. Decades of logging have left a severe deficit of old-growth forests on Oregon's state lands.

Mature and old-growth legacy forests in Oregon's temperate rain forest region are well positioned to survive the disturbance-enhancing effects of climate change, including wildfires, and they offer incredible outdoor recreation opportunities.

Old-growth trees confer fire resilience to forests, thanks to their high moisture content, thick bark, and lack of ladder fuels that lead to crown fires. Together, adaptations like these make it difficult for fire to ignite tree boles (trunks) or climb into canopies in larger/older trees, particularly in western fire-adapted forest types.

Legacy trees help buffer forests from extreme heat and drought, with deep roots that enhance water storage and access and cooler microclimates under the shade of their leaves.

Legacy forests protect and provide clean drinking water for millions of Americans, yet remain a rarity on the landscape after centuries of aggressive timber logging.

Legacy forests maintain ecosystem functions and serve as a refuge from both climate change and fire impacts for valued fish and wildlife species.

Legacy are carbon storage powerhouses. Large, older trees store a disproportionately high amount of carbon and continue to sequester carbon throughout their centuries long lifetimes.