

Submitter: Sherry Dickinson

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4105

Tilts management away from ecological goals toward guaranteed timber outputs, by making “sustainable harvest levels” a legal obligation enforceable in court.

Undermines habitat conservation planning for state forests by limiting the State Forester's ability to protect salmon, Northern Spotted Owls, and other species if those protections reduce harvests.

Locks in higher harvest pressure just as Oregon has been moving toward long-term habitat conservation plans for fish and wildlife on state lands.

Steps backward from years of negotiated progress on forest practices, including efforts to better protect cold water, stream buffers, and critical habitat on public forests.

Jeopardizes implementation of the HCP, the Western State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan, that we have fought so hard to establish.

Prevents managing State forests for carbon sequestration by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).

HB 4105 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 ODF's ability to manage state forests for multiple values.

HB 4105 isn't necessary. 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.