



TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR

March 5, 2024

Oregon Board of Forestry
Jim Kelly, Chair
Liz Agpaoa, Member
Karla Chambers, Member

Ben Deumling, Member
Chandra Ferrari, Member
Joe Justice, Member
Brenda McComb, Member

RE: Westside Forest Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

Dear Members of the Board:

This is certainly a difficult week for each of you serving on the Board as you decide whether the State Forester should finalize and submit the proposed HCP for Oregon's westside forests. After years of controversy, complex considerations, and hours of contentious meetings, there is no clear consensus on the pathway forward. Sometimes this posture is simply where tough decisions reside, and the best that can be done is to make a decision and move forward. I believe this is one of those moments. Regardless of your position on this issue, I want to thank you for your service and continued work.

Parallel with your work on the HCP itself, my office has followed through on the commitment I made last April to investigate whether and how we might alleviate the fiscal impact to Trust Land Counties from reduced harvest levels anticipated under an HCP. That work with representatives of the counties continues, but I want you to know that I see a viable pathway forward to address the estimated reduction in timber receipts that would result from implementing the anticipated HCP. Should the HCP go forward at your direction, I am committed to continuing this work with the expectation of bringing a proposal to the 2025 legislative session to permanently address the estimated shortfall.

To be clear, I also understand addressing the projected shortfall in direct payments does not mitigate the indirect economic impacts that may also result from harvest reductions on state-owned forests along with a host of other causes. While this has not been the focus of our ongoing conversations with the county representatives, I am interested in working with those who are interested to discuss ideas for addressing this challenge as well.

Again, thank you for your time, patience, and persistence as a member of the Board of Forestry.

Sincerely,

Governor Tina Kotek

cc: State Forester Cal Mukumoto, Oregon Department of Forestry
Geoff Huntington, Senior Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Governor's Office

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