



*A Division of Hancock Timber Resource Group,  
A Manulife Asset Management Company*

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Region Manager - Southern Oregon

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April 8, 2013

The Honorable Sen. Chris Edwards, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
Oregon State Capitol  
Room H-178  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Senator Edwards;

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the pending review of their budget in your committee. As manager of large timberland property I have a long standing relationship with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and a great deal of respect for the local and regional field managers I have interfaced with over time.

We have one of the longest standing, statewide, Habitat and Access projects, in Jackson County called the Jackson County Travel Management and Access program, which has enjoyed a high level of success largely due to the efforts of local ODF&W staff helping it get off the ground and steering along the way. This program provides for hunter and recreational experience within 60 square miles of timberlands, while limiting vehicular traffic on native surface roads to minimize sediment in streams during the November through April time period. We are the largest private landowner involved and it has dramatically reduced road damage and allowed us to focus resources elsewhere.

Over the last several years we have some land in the Prospect area that suffers from extreme browse pressure, to the point we have needed to replant areas it is so bad. ODF&W staff have been very accommodating in getting us damage tags to keep the animals moving and hopefully thin out the herd just a little. This has been very helpful in the mitigation of elk damage to young planted stands.

These are a couple of examples where ODF&W budgets are leveraged to use their resources and staff time wisely to maximize value to stakeholders in the community. I greatly appreciate your consideration and support of the ODF&W budget review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth P. Cummings".

Kenneth P. Cummings