



## TU Celebrates 50 Years of Protecting Cold, Clean, Fishable Water.

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### Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

April 10, 2013

Chair Roblan and committee members-

My name is Tom Wolf and I am the chair of the Oregon Council Trout Unlimited-part of the largest cold-water conservation group in the country. Trout Unlimited is in opposition to SB 357. We feel that it is an unnecessary bill which takes away from the current management of state forest-where final decisions are made by the Board of Forestry.

Currently, the Board of Forestry, which consists of 7 members representing a broad diversity of stakeholder groups, makes policy decisions for management on state forests. They do this with good science provided by the Department of Forestry staff and public input from a wide range of stakeholder groups. It is a very detailed and well thought out process that includes everyone wishing to provide input. The final decisions made on forest management plans made by the board are reached after this very deliberate process.

Management of the state forest reflects a broad multi-use philosophy. Timber harvest is an important consideration but other uses such as ecological, recreational and providing drinking water are equally important. For example, fishing on streams in the Tillamook/Clatsop provides not only a great recreational opportunity for thousand of Oregonians but brings millions of dollars into the local economy. Other recreational pursuits such as hiking, mountain biking and hunting also bring money into the pockets of local owners of stores, restaurants and lodging. SB 357 would void the multi-use purpose for the current Tillamook/Clatsop forest management plan and completely negate the careful work done by the Board on this plan, having a major impact on local economies.

Trout Unlimited is a big supporter of the concept that policy decisions need to be made by the natural resource boards or commissions in each agency. The people chosen to serve on these boards are intelligent, sincere and knowledgeable on their issues. The members of the Board of Forestry, representing a broad range of interest groups, have crafted the current Tillamook/Clatsop forest management plan to reflect the values of Oregonians. It contains timber harvest goals which provide local jobs yet combine that with plans to protect drinking water sources for thousands of Oregonians and recreational opportunities for many people, which also provide money into the local economies. SB 357 would overrule this carefully crafted plan, that incorporated local citizen input. This is the wrong approach and should not be allowed to happen.

So, in closely, let it be stated again that TU opposes SB 357 for the reasons mentioned. The Board of Forestry has already composed a plan that has good harvest goals and reflects on the concept of multi-use. The decision making power on state forest management should be left in the hands of the Board of Forestry and not be decided by the Oregon Legislature. For that reason, we urge you to vote against SB 357 and not pass it out of this committee.