



April 15, 2013

**Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources**

Sen. Chris Edwards, Co-Chair

Rep. Ben Unger, Co-Chair

Sen. Jackie Dingfelder

Sen. Chuck Thomsen

Rep. Jules Bailey

Rep. Bruce Hanna

Via email to [WaysandMeans.NaturalResourcesSub@state.or.us](mailto:WaysandMeans.NaturalResourcesSub@state.or.us)

RE: SB 5521 Department of Forestry

Co-Chairs Edwards, Unger and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute does not take positions on pending bills. This letter is written in general support of the Department of Forestry, especially its Private Forests Program. Through this program, ODF assists landowners by providing professional expertise on sound forest management, effective solutions to specific landowner problems, and how to comply with the Oregon Forest Practices Act, plus fire prevention and burning regulations.

ODF Stewardship Foresters are responsible for resource protection on 18,000 private forestland sites. They offer advice on best management practices and, when necessary, corrective actions. Landowners turn to them for advice when planning and conducting projects like harvest or thinning operations, slash disposal, burning, planting, application of chemicals, stream improvement, wildlife habitat enhancement, or road construction and maintenance.

OFRI is charged with both public education and landowner education about sound forest management. To help achieve our mission, during the past two years OFRI joined with ODF and others, including Oregon State University Extension Service, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, the Oregon Tree Farm System, the Oregon Society of American Foresters, the U.S. Forest Service and Associated Oregon Loggers to form the Partnership for Forestry Education. This innovative partnership that includes government, nonprofits and private organizations is dedicated to providing educational resources to Oregon forest landowners, managers and operators.

317 SW Sixth Ave., Suite 400  
Portland, OR 97204-1705  
971-673-2944  
971-673-2946 facsimile

[oregonforests.org](http://oregonforests.org)

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ODF Stewardship Foresters are an indispensable delivery mechanism for forest landowner education. They are particularly helpful when landowners are planning operations in sensitive locations such as around fish-bearing streams, spotted owl or eagle habitat, or land with sensitive terrain issues such as steep slopes and landslide risks.

OFRI deeply appreciates the professionalism and hard work of the Stewardship Foresters. They are a critical piece of the overall forest landowner education program that keeps our forests forested while protecting Oregon's precious natural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul F. Barnum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul F. Barnum  
Executive Director

Cc     Brett Brownscombe  
       Doug Decker