



Woodland Owners Who Love Their Land

April 18, 2013

To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Subject: Oregon Department of Forestry Budget

My name is Scott Hayes. I am the President of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association. Since our Association was founded in 1960, our mission has focused on educating small woodland owners to best manage their lands for multiple uses.

Small woodland owners learn about good forest management from each other, from consulting foresters, from Oregon State University Extension agents, and from the Oregon Department of Forestry's Stewardship Foresters.

Our Association supports the Department of Forestry's budget, especially the Private Forests Program and the Fire Protection Program. Many of our members have direct contact with the Private Forest Program's Stewardship Foresters, who provide practical technical advice on good forest management. They help family woodland owners understand the requirements of the Forest Practices Act. They provide critical fire inspections when our woodland owners harvest timber. And they form the important "firefighting militia" role which is so critical during fire suppression efforts on private lands.

On behalf of our Association's board of directors and executive committee, I strongly urge the committee to support the Oregon Department of Forestry's proposed budget.

Respectfully yours,

Scott Hayes  
President  
Oregon Small Woodlands Association



## Providing Opportunity to Family Forestland Owners

April 18, 2013

To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

RE: Oregon Department of Forestry Budget

My name is Jim James. I am Executive Director of the Oregon Small Woodland Association (OSWA). OSWA is a membership trade organization that represents the interests of Oregon's family forest owners. We have chapters throughout the state, with about 1500 family memberships. OSWA members own and manage over 250,000 acres of Oregon's forests. OSWA supports the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and believes ODF does a great job in meeting its obligations. OSWA recommends the ODF budget be adequate for them to maintain the current services they provide to forest owners, benefitting all Oregonians and supports the recommended 314.3 MM budget proposal.

ODF has always been an important partner with Oregon's forest owners to protect private forests from losses due to fire and to make sure Oregon's Forest Practice Laws are followed. The improvements in ODF's budget in 2011 were greatly needed. They have done a good job of getting more Stewardship Foresters back on the ground, setting up a forest practices monitoring program, and are working to improve the forest operation notification program. These are important issues to all Oregonians and having an adequate budget to accomplish these items is in all Oregonian's best interests. Family forest owners rely on ODF for the services they provide. OSWA supports the 50-50 split between forest owners and the general fund to finance ODF's Fire Division and the 40-60 split between forest landowners and the general fund to finance ODF's Private Forest Program.

OSWA urges the committee to support the budget proposed for ODF and make sure ODF is adequately funded to meet the expectations of forest landowners and all Oregonians. OSWA also supports HB 2050, the Wildfire Protection Act. It establishes another partnership between forest owners and the general public to decrease losses from forest fires and protect forest values enjoyed by all Oregonians.

Thanks,

Jim James  
Executive Director  
Oregon Small Woodlands Association