



Association of Northwest Steelheaders

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Established 1960

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

RE: SB 5521 Department of Forestry

From: Ian Fergusson, Resource Director

Date: April 18, 2013

Co-Chairs Edwards, Unger and Members of the Subcommittee,

My name is Ian Fergusson. I am a volunteer member of the board of directors of the Association of Northwest Steelheaders. Our organization's interest in forest policy stems from the close relationship between forest practices and aquatic ecosystems.

We wish to testify in general support of the Department of Forestry, and the diversification of revenue sources to help ensure fiscal stability. There are two Policy Option Packages that we think are of particular importance.

Policy Option Package 452 provides funding for the Department to continue its long-term studies on forest practices and water quality. We believe this is a critical component of the mission of the Department of Forestry. There is no shortage of opinions about forest practices, but decisions must be driven by data. Such data cannot be gathered cheaply or rapidly. We respectfully ask that you support this package.

Policy Option Package 453 provides funding for administration of the Forest Practices Act. This function has been severely curtailed in the recent economic downturn. The package would put more Stewardship Foresters on the ground to help ensure that habitat and water quality are protected during road construction and timber harvest. We respectfully ask that you support this package.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Thank you also for your service to the citizens of Oregon.