



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Department of Forestry

State Forester's Office

2600 State Street

Salem, OR 97310

Phone: (503) 945-7200

FAX (503) 945-7212

TTY (503) 945-7213 / (800) 437-4490

<http://www.odf.state.or.us>

March 14, 2013

Senator Arnie Roblan  
Rural Communities and Economic Development Committee  
Hearing Room C, State Capital  
Salem, OR 97310



*"STEWARDSHIP  
IN FORESTRY"*

**Subject: ODF perspectives on SB715 re: Harvest of Swiss Needle Cast Stands**

Dear Senator Roblan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer some perspectives on Senate Bill 715 and on the Department of Forestry's aggressive management of Swiss Needle Cast (SNC) disease. We appreciate your interest in forest health, timber sale revenue and community wellbeing, and hope that you find this information useful. On State Forest lands, the problems associated with this disease are centered on the coastal portion of the Tillamook State Forest.

- In 2003 it was estimated that SNC had affected about 83,000 acres on the Tillamook State Forest. We have harvested about 45 percent of these acres, and estimate that about 40,000 acres of stands with moderate SNC remain. The remaining areas include forest stands that are too young or small to generate revenue, or that exist on steep, unstable ground that is landslide prone or may be economically prohibitive due to road-building costs, low volumes per acre and low stumpage values.
- We work with the Oregon State University College of Forestry to better understand this disease, and to manage it in accordance with the best available science. Our approach includes replanting with SNC tolerant Douglas fir seed and other species not susceptible to SNC (e.g. hemlock).
- SB 715 may produce a modest increase in harvest volume, but net revenues would not increase, in light of the costs. We will continue to work diligently to convert poor-performing SNC stands to healthy vigorous stands in state-owned forests.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you, and we're happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Doug Decker  
Oregon State Forester