



Oregon Biodiversity Information Center

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January 29, 2015

The Honorable Richard Devlin
Natural Resources Ways and Means Subcommittee Co-Chair

The Honorable Dan Rayfield
Natural Resources Ways and Means Subcommittee Co-Chair

c/o John Terpening, Legislative Fiscal Office
9800 Court St NE, Room H-178
Salem, OR 97301

Support for Lidar appropriations

Lidar has proven to be exceptionally valuable to our work at the Institute for Natural Resources (INR) assisting with watershed restoration and fish and wildlife conservation planning in the state. Examples include mapping the distribution and condition of riparian habitats in the Willamette Valley to assist Watershed Councils, NGOs and OWEB in prioritizing areas to work and to improve DEQ's ability to report on TMDL progress. Lidar helped improve the mapping of streams and floodplains in the Willamette Valley and provided accurate measures of streamside shading.

At INR, we also have worked extensively with the state to develop the Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan (SageCon). Lidar has proven to be very useful in providing the only reliable data needed to map the spread of western juniper across the range of this at-risk bird. It also has assisted in mapping sagebrush and the recovery of sagebrush habitats from some of the large wildfires across this area.

INR has also used Lidar to help in planning forest restoration to reduce fire risk for many communities. The Lidar data has allowed INR to create models that compare different restoration scenarios allowing decision-makers to identify the places where restoration will provide the best results in relation to reducing fire risk.

Lidar has also been key to our work on wetlands restoration planning. It has allowed us to develop new information on the ability of individual wetlands to provide flood control, late season water delivery and clean water, allowing watershed groups, NGOs and state agencies to better focus restoration dollars on areas where restoration will create the most good.

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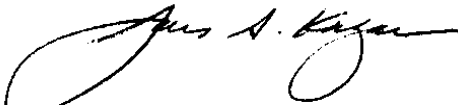
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Support of Lidar appropriations (cont.)

For all of this work, getting one-time, total Lidar coverage for the state of Oregon is critical. With this information, the state can have access to detailed elevation data, reliable stream locations, and can significantly improve information on flood and fire risk to all communities.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jimmy Kagan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jimmy Kagan
Director, INR Portland