



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Forestry

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April 9th, 2015

Honorable Brad Witt, Chair
House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources
Room H-374 , State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 3210 – Relating to the amount of timber harvested from state forest lands

Dear Chair Witt and Members of the Committee:

State forest lands managed by the Board of Forestry are managed for the Greatest Permanent Value (GPV), meaning they are managed to provide “healthy, productive and sustainable forest ecosystems that over time and across the landscape provide a full range of social, economic and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon.” The Board of Forestry has adopted forest management plans for these lands that are designed to meet this statutory mandate.

House Bill 3210 would override the authority of the Board to adopt management plans that achieve GPV, in effect changing the definition of GPV adopted by the Board in its administrative rules.

Further, HB 3210 would require the development of new state forest management plans that achieve 85% of the harvest levels possible under the Forest Practices Act and would replace the current Board of Forestry-approved management plan, which was developed based on significant public and stakeholder input and multiple integrated forest values. Additionally, the requirement that volume deficiencies in one county be made-up in another may lead to unsustainable harvests to the long-term detriment of the other counties.

The Department is currently revising the Northwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan using a collaborative stakeholder-driven process, which HB 3210 would undermine. The goals of this public process underway now are to achieve a financially viable outcome for the State Forests Division and to increase conservation outcomes. The process has involved representatives from the counties, conservation community, timber industry, recreation, and the public-at-large.

For these reasons, and with support from the Board of Forestry for this position, the Department of Forestry opposes this legislation.

Sincerely,

Paul Bell
Deputy State Forester

c: Doug Decker, Oregon State Forester
Tom Imeson, Chair, Oregon Board of Forestry
Richard Whitman, Governor's Natural Resource Advisor
Lauri Aunan, Natural Resource Policy Advisor
ODF Executive Team