



Council of Forest Trust Land Counties

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CFTLC SUPPORTS DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY 2015-17 PROPOSED BUDGET PACKAGES

The Council of Forest Trust Land Counties represents the 15 counties that transferred forestlands to the State of Oregon over time under the Forest Acquisition Act (1941) in exchange for a share of revenues from, and participation in management policy of, those lands. The lands are now bountiful State Forests, such as the Tillamook, Clatsop, and Sun Pass.

The CFTLC Board of Directors also serve as the statutory Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee, which advises and consults the State Forester and Board of Forestry on management of the State Forests and on other matters pertaining to forestland.

The Forest Development Fund (FDF), which is financed by state forest receipts and provides the resources to manage the State Forests, is going broke due to inadequate harvest of state forests. The latest estimate of the Department of Forestry (ODF) shows the FDF in the red by 2020. To prevent this from happening, the Board of Forestry is in the process of designing a new State Forest Management Plan that CFTLC hopes to be significantly more productive than the current plan.

In the meantime, ODF has offered three 2015-17 proposed budget packages supported by CFTLC, two of which are described as one-time requests to help continue their forest management as ODF works through its revenue shortfall.

- South Fork Inmate Camp – the Governor’s Recommended Budget (GRB) provides \$750,000 in general funds to shift funding from 100 percent of FDF dollars, which are used to manage state forests, to more accurately reflect the proportion of work at the camp related to state forest management.
- Recreation, Education and Interpretation – the GRB would fund at \$1.4 million in general funds the one-time request for needs related to operations of the Tillamook Forest Center, a popular and informative stop along the Wilson River Highway. CFTLC’s support for this package depends upon the Board of Forestry taking necessary action on harvest levels to return the ODF State Forest Division to an independent and fully functioning entity and provide significantly more local economic benefits and revenues.
- Research and Monitoring – the GRB would provide \$650,000 for the one-time request to meet information and science-based needs required by long-term planning. CFTLC’s support again depends upon the Board of Forestry taking necessary action on harvest levels to return ODF State Forest Division to an independent and fully functioning entity and provide significantly more local economic benefits and revenues.

CFTLC respectfully requests that the Natural Resources Subcommittee approve all three packages.