



Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Sub-Committee on Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178,
Salem, Oregon 97301

Senate Members:

Sen. Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
Sen. Michael Dembrow
Sen. Bill Hansell

House Members:

Rep. Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
Rep. Brian Clem
Rep. David Gomberg
Rep. Jodi Hack
Rep. Julie Parrish

15 April 2015

Dear Honorable Sub-Committee Members

I am writing in support of the \$1.1 million dollars designated to support the development of biomass markets in Oregon Department of Forestry's budget.

Wallowa Resources was formed in 1996 to help maintain and restore the natural resource based economy of Wallowa County and NE Oregon. We've worked hard since that time to support working landscapes and the businesses, jobs and families associated with our working lands.

We're motivated by, and participating in, the joint investments of federal, state and private partners to accelerate the pace and scale of forest restoration in Oregon. This is critical to the health of our communities and our forests.

Given the current conditions of the federal forests, and some of the adjacent family forest lands, restoration will result in the harvest of significant volumes of small diameter logs. While we've made progress in building new markets, and developing new products, for small logs – the existing markets to utilize this material are insufficient to address the anticipated volume that will result from restoration. If we don't continue to invest in research and development of new products, markets and businesses capable of using this material, we will miss important opportunities to reduce the cost of forest restoration and generate value (jobs and revenue) in our local communities, as well as more broadly to the state and nation.

I urge you to support continued investment in the biomass development work being conducted by ODF. This work will:

- Contribute to the reduction in cost of forest restoration, and the accomplishment of more restoration.
- Contribute to the creation of biomass-based businesses in rural communities – in Wallowa County, we've created over 25 jobs working with biomass, we could expand this ten-fold in NE Oregon with further development.

Thanks for your consideration of and support for biomass market development.

Sincerely,

Nils D Christoffersen
Executive Director

Board of Directors

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Maintaining the rural lifestyle for the next generation