

CITY OF WHEELER



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Dear Co-chairs Devlin and Rayfield,

Oregon's state forests are one of our greatest natural resources. The Greatest Permanent Value (GPV) rule that directs management of our state forests requires "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."

It is for this reason that the below listed community leaders support full funding for the Oregon Department of Forestry's Policy Option Package for research and monitoring, recreational upkeep of facilities and educational opportunities. Many of these programs were cut during the deep recession the state fell in just a few years ago.

As you know, state forest programs currently provide significant benefits to Oregonians. State forests provide logs for local mills, revenues to local governments, a prison program, healthy habitat for valuable salmon and steelhead runs, and many recreational opportunities that support our local economy.

If too strong a focus is put on timber harvest to pay for state forest management, we will lose the balanced management that the law requires, and we will also increase the risks to clean water, our salmon, and many recreation opportunities. There is too much pressure on state forests to provide everything, and these POPs will allow the Board of Forestry to provide balanced management.

Please consider full funding of the Oregon Department of Forestry's Policy Option Packages during the challenging deliberations ahead. It is critically important that recreation, restoration, research and monitoring play a more equal role along with timber harvest on our state forest landscape.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stevie S. Burden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stevie S. Burden
Mayor
City of Wheeler