



April 15, 2015

Oregon Chapter Sierra Club Supports Policy Option Packages 131, 132, and 133

Co-Chair Devlin, Co-chair Rayfield, and Committee members,

Thank you for allowing me to present testimony on behalf of the over 16,000 supporters and members of the Oregon Chapter Sierra Club,

The Sierra Club supports Policy Option Packages 131, 132, and 133. These three packages are crucial to enabling the Department of Forestry to continue to manage Oregon's state forests in a way that provides a diverse range of benefits to Oregonians, and in a way that is driven by the best available science.

The Oregon Board of Forestry is working to revise the northwest Forest Management Plan, in large part because the current model is failing to fund important recreation, research, monitoring, and education programs. These Policy Option Packages are not only vital to the success of this plan revision, but also reflect the broad values that Oregonians expect to receive from these forests.

I ask that you honor the Department's request for these key funds, and in doing so, allow the Department to continue to perform research and monitoring projects across the forest, meet the growing recreation demands of both north coast and Washington County residents, and partner with the Department of Corrections in running the South Fork Prison Camp, which not only meets the needs of the forest, but reduces recidivism rates and bolsters life skills for inmates looking to re-enter society.

In short, I ask that you honor these requests so that the Department can continue to provide Oregonians with the Greatest Permanent Value from these public lands.

Sincerely,

Chris Smith
Conservation Program Coordinator
Oregon Chapter, Sierra Club