



Ochoco Lumber Company

March 22, 2017

TO: The Honorable Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
The Honorable Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair
The Honorable Betsy Johnson, Co-Vice Chair
The Honorable Jackie Winters, Co-Vice Chair
The Honorable Dan Rayfield, Co-Vice Chair
The Honorable Greg Smith, Co-Vice Chair
Joint Way and Means Committee

RE: Oregon Department of Forestry Federal Forest Restoration Program

Ochoco Lumber Company is writing to express our strong support for the Oregon Department of Forestry Federal Forest Restoration Program. The state's investment to date has supported collaborative planning and funded timber sale implementation, which has led to an increase in the pace, scale, and effectiveness of restoration of Oregon's forest products infrastructure and the quality of our federal forests. Our company, in rural John Day, has been a direct recipient of the successes of the collaboratives in Eastern Oregon.

We recognize that this is a difficult budget environment and that tough choices must be made across the entire budget and within the Oregon Department of Forestry budget. We are concerned by contemplated reductions in position and programs at ODF that could impact firefighting capacity and Oregon's ability to address problems such as Sudden Oak Death. The choice of where to put limited forestry dollars is difficult and unenviable. We encourage you to consult with many forestry stakeholders to make the best and most informed decision possible.

That being said, we believe that the Federal Forest Restoration Program, and in particular the Program's support of forest collaboratives, has been highly successful and should be continued. Collaboratives have created the social agreement necessary to avoid needless litigation, leading to quicker approval of environmental assessments necessary for timber harvest to occur. Our employees, all 106 of them in a small community, have been fully engaged in these efforts.

According to the Oregon Department of Forestry, ODF crews have assisted with pre-sale layout of 275 million board feet of federal timber sales. Of that total, 174 MMBF will be offered for sale before the end of this biennium. ODF crews have also assisted with pre-sale layout on a total of 101 MMBF of federal timber to be sold in the latter half of 2017 and 2018.

We appreciate the Department of Forestry's implementation of the Federal Forest Restoration Program over the past two biennia and strongly encourage you to continue to support this groundbreaking effort.

Respectfully,

Ochoco Lumber Company
By Ochoco Management, Inc., its managing general partner

Bruce Daucsavage
President