



Board of Commissioners

Courthouse, Room 110
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April 3, 2017

Senator Lew Frederick
900 Court St NE, S-419
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Brad Witt
900 Court St. NE, H-374
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Toledo, Oregon - Stewardship Forestry Program

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative Witt:

As County Commissioners we have an appreciation for the difficult challenge facing the Oregon Legislature in balancing the State Budget. Nevertheless, we want to appeal to you to find a way of keeping the Stewardship Forestry Program in the Toledo Unit of the Oregon Department of Forestry whole. One of the two forester positions is currently vacant and is proposed for elimination. We believe this decision is short-sighted and will cost more than it will save in the long run.

A significant portion of Lincoln County's land mass (almost 1,000 square miles total) is covered with state and private timberlands. It is no doubt a challenge for two stewardship foresters to oversee harvest activities on this acreage. If the vacant position was permanently lost, it would be all but impossible for even the most committed individual to do an adequate job of oversight.

This reduction is being proposed at the same time there is heightened public interest in harvest activities in our county, particularly clear-cutting and the aerial application of herbicides. Now is not the time to reduce the State's ability to monitor these activities.

Sincerely yours,

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


TERRY N. THOMPSON, Chair


DOUG HUNT


BILL HALL