

Marc Ahrendt <marc@28robots.com>

My name is Marc Ahrendt, a small woodland owner in Forest Grove, who with his family lives on their 80 acre woodland property. Considering Oregon has the best Forestry school in the nation, seems strange that such dysfunctional house bills come up every so often. The intent is well meaning, but the background information and impact analysis are so incomplete.

I am not in support of this bill ...and that is significant, considering we do not use any chemicals in our tree stands. In fact "no chemicals" is stated in our forest management plan!

There is only one example I would like to provide to help emphasize my lack of support for this bill. My family just received a cost-sharing grant from NRCS (essentially federal money) to revitalize forest roads on our property. It was clear that the key component of receiving the grant was the need to help provide access by road not just for forest management but also for woodland firefighting advantages. This grant required us to work closely with ODF and other state and federal agencies to ensure the work proposed would not be impacting water quality, native species, historic/archaeological sites, soil erosion, etc... There was so much regulation to satisfy for us to get the grant that we almost decided not to pursue it, and just do the work funded 100% by us or not at all. Not at all means higher probability of not having roads for quick access to suppress a fire, a fire that could devastate our woodlands and generate significant runoff during heavy rains and negatively impact nearby ground water systems.

Simply put, the government needs to focus more on incentives for forest/woodland owners so that they embrace the great management practices already in existence! Yet layering on more restrictions, especially not well researched ones like those in this bill, promotes land owners to isolate themselves instead of collaborating with others ...tragic considering how fantastic Oregon forestry resources are for small woodland owners (OSU forestry extension service, ODF, etc..)

Sincerely, Marc Ahrendt