

**Date:** March 14, 2019

**To:** Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Co-Chairs Rep. Reardon and Sen. Taylor

Senator Frederick

Senator Girod

Representative Hayden

Representative Holvey

Representative Neron

Representative Brock Smith

**Submitted by:** Jud Parsons, Forest Land Manager, Mountcrest Forest L.L.C.

**Re: Testimony in support of Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's budget**

Co-Chairs Senator Taylor and Representative Reardon and Members of the Committee: I am sorry I cannot be there in person to speak with you today, but I appreciate the opportunity provide testimony in support of the budget for Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

As a forest land owner, I manage more than 2,000 acres of land in Southern Oregon. My land is on the Siskiyou Crest, an area that is extremely important for wildlife and their habitat, as well as for fire risk reduction, protecting watersheds, and producing valuable timber. I have put much of my land into a working forest conservation easement with Pacific Forest Trust. This permanent conservation project would not have been possible without the financial support from OWEB. I think that their work is critically important to Oregonians like me who want to do what's best for their land and require some additional funding and expertise in order to accomplish their vision. I would like to see this work expanded over time, with more funding available as I know it is a competitive process and these projects take some time to come together, working with many different agencies and partners. Please continue to support the work of OWEB and make investments in Oregon's land and water a priority for the use of lottery dollars. Conserving our lands is essential to protecting irreplaceable resources, Oregon's heritage and its future.

Please let me know if you have any questions, I would be happy to follow up.

Sincerely,

Jud Parsons