

Hal and Elin <hal.elin@gmail.com>

HB 2656

March 19, 2019

To: Committee on HB 2656,

We own 103 acres of forest/pasture land just NW of Sheridan, Oregon. Also, we have a small logging company with our son. We are writing to express our concerns regarding HB 2656 which would ban even aged forest management, construction of roads on forest land, and herbicide application.

We have mixed hardwood/conifer stands as well as even aged stands of Douglas-fir which we have planted to convert low quality pasture areas to forest. We use herbicides to control invasive and unwanted vegetation. We have roads to access our forest, and we do thinning as well as small clearcuts to manage our forest land and harvest timber for income.

Douglas-fir is our main "cash crop" as well as the most important tree species in Oregon's forest industry. The wood has excellent properties for use as construction lumber. Douglas-fir is "shade intolerant"

needing full sunlight to grow well. Therefore it grows best when planted in a clearcut or stand replacing fire. Historically our west side Douglas-fir had less frequent but more intense stand replacing fires that were naturally re-seeded as mostly even aged stands. The trees growing in an even aged stand result in higher quality timber and thus better wood products. The management of an even aged stand is more economical than a mixed aged stand. It requires fewer entries into the stand, less herbicide use, and results in higher volume per acre. A clear cut harvest is more economical and less energy intensive than multiple entries into a mixed aged stand. Clearcut openings are important for wildlife, including birds and pollinators.

We have personally attended workshops for those interested in establishing mixed age/species stands. Doing so required intensive management. Harvesting was very difficult to accomplish without damaging the residual trees. As openings were made in the canopy for sunlight to reach young seedlings they also resulted in more invasive and undesirable understory vegetation which herbicides were used to control. The Douglas-fir regenerating in openings was slow growing and often unable to survive to maturity. If there was enough light for good growth the trees were of a more open growth character with large branches which resulted in lower quality more knotty wood.

The use of sustainably produced wood products is very important to Oregon's economy. Now as we address the problems of global warming it is even more important to grow more trees sequestering more carbon and to use durable wood products that store that carbon. We need to use wood products as applicable to replace concrete and steel, which have a much higher carbon footprint. We need to use wood from our sustainably managed forests instead of importing it from places where it is not grown sustainably.

Forest roads are necessary for access to plant, thin, harvest, and other management activities including wildfire protection. Our forest practice rules insure that roads are built and maintained to minimize environmental impacts.

Unfortunately we now have so many invasives such as blackberries, thistles, scotch broom, tansy, false brome, etc., that seedling establishment is very expensive and labor and energy intensive without using herbicides. Also forest herbicides are typically used for a very limited time during stand establishment or over-whelming noxious weed control.

Even-aged management, forest roads, and herbicides are all important tools for growing healthy productive forests. They need to be used responsibly, but to ban their use does not make sense. HB 2656 is unacceptable. Our forests are a natural resource we need to use not only for the clean air and water they provide, but also for forest products. This can actually contribute a great deal in addressing the great challenge of global climate change.

Please vote NO on HB 2656. Feel free to contact us with any questions. Thank you.

respectfully,

Hal and Elin Hagglund ph: 503-843-2173 <[hal.elin@gmail.com](mailto:hal.elin@gmail.com)>

19030 SW Canyon Rd, Sheridan, OR 97378