



Woodland Owners Who Love Their Land

May 10, 2021

Co-Chairs Frederick and McClain and Members of the Committee,

My name is Amy Jahnke and I'm the Executive Director of Oregon Small Woodlands Association and Administrator of the Oregon Tree Farm System. I'm here to note our support of the OSU Statewides funding in SB 5528. Both of the organizations I'm here representing work directly with family forest owners in Oregon, many who benefit greatly from the services provided by Oregon State University Extension as well as the active participation of OSU College of Forestry's Forest Research Laboratory professors in our activities.

There are more than 70,000 family forest owners in Oregon, managing more than 3.6 million acres of forest land. Most of those forest owners are not foresters, so OSU Extension agents help bridge that knowledge gap by providing education that helps family forest owners learn about and manage their forest land for wood, wildlife, water and recreation values sustainably. There aren't enough Extension agents to serve the diverse needs of all the family forest owners in Oregon and many agents work across multiple counties, which is why we support this funding increase.

For our members, Extension agents play a key role in providing educational resources and presentations during family woodland tours, field trips and chapter meetings. Extension aided many of our landowners with recovery efforts following the wildfires, and the new fire agents are providing critical education and outreach, including a well-attended webinar series to help small woodland owners access the resources they need to maintain their properties with wildfire risks in mind. Extension Agents, Professors and this year the Dean of the College of Forestry often actively participate in our annual meetings. We've had specialists in toxicology, forest health, pollinators, climate change, and tree farm economics speak at our annual meetings, to name a few. In addition, OSU plays a strong role in helping small woodland owners be better managers of their property by developing practical publications, that are often jointly produced by Extension agents and OSU professors. This relationship between the College of Forestry and OSWA and Tree Farm only enriches small woodland owners and enhances management of their forests.

I'd like to reiterate our support for OSU's funding in SB 5528 to continue helping small woodland owners in maintaining the beauty and health of Oregon's working forests.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

Amy D. Jahnke, PhD
Executive Director
Oregon Small Woodlands Association