

Submitter: Diane Monico

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB795

The Oregon Board of Forestry should continue to manage the State Forests, especially with the newly created Habitat Conservation Plan, to put priorities on water quality, healthy diversified forests, fish and wildlife habitats, and especially critical now as one of the greatest carbon sinks to help fight global warming. The many benefits the living forest provides is the greatest permanent value of the forests. The counties' main concern is income from clear-cutting the forest, turning it into a tree farm; a short-term gain without considering the long-term consequences. Rather, the counties should unhook themselves from the agreement made almost a century ago (before anyone heard of global warming), to rely on timber sales for their funding. They pressure the State now to log more and more board-feet of timber when we should be keeping our old-growth and large trees and planting more. If the counties were given free reign over the forests, from their rhetoric they certainly sound as if cutting (and spraying toxins on) the forest to finance themselves would be their top priority.