

Submitter: Cassidy Meinzer Coleman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Natural Resources

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5521

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and Levy, and Members of the Committee,

Since I moved to Oregon nine years ago, I've been utterly captivated by the sprawling diversity of our forestlands. I was delighted and relieved when the Private Forest Accord (PFA), a landmark agreement regarding Oregon's logging rules on private forestlands, was passed in 2022. It provides significant new protections for fish, stream-dwelling amphibians, wildlife in the forests adjacent to streams, for cold clean water, and for the people who rely on these resources.

A key part of the agreement calls for the state of Oregon to get a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan across more than 10 million acres of private forestlands.

However, this critical agreement is now at risk - without a federally approved Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan by 2027, the new rules will roll back entirely to the outdated standards, risking damage to the habitats that make Oregon the spectacular place it is, and undoing the hard work of the scientists, organizers, and community members who came together to negotiate PFA's broad reforms to state law.

Please support full funding in the Oregon Department of Forestry's budget (SB 5521) for two critical PFA programs. The SFISH grant program for small forestland owners should be fully funded at \$10 million and the Adaptive Management Program designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the new rules should be fully funded at \$6 million.

Thanks for your consideration,

Cassidy Meinzer-Coleman
Concerned resident of Beaverton, OR