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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is MaryBeth Selby and I am a resident of Oregon.

I'm commenting today in support of a strong Habitat Conservation Plan for all state forests. I also support an updated Forest Management Plan that protects salmon, wildlife, clean water and provides carbon storage to fight climate change. To do this I believe we need even tighter restrictions put in place to protect our forests.

As someone who hikes and volunteers for a local land trust organization, I understand the impact to our local economy and to our wellbeing in having protected lands for recreation, wildlife and plant species preservation and the protection of our climate as temperatures rise.

I request that the Board support a strong Habitat Conservation Plan that is based on the best available science, not on political pressure of corporations seeking economic gain, and to oppose any efforts to reduce habitat protections and which would allow for the clear cutting of thousands of additional acres. Any changes to the HCP that would reduce protected areas would not be supported by science.

Local forests have already been overharvested for decades and a strong HCP will restore balance to state forests, protect habitat for fish and wildlife and allow more sustainable levels of timber harvest over time.

The current HCP protects an adequate amount of habitat for threatened species, especially considering future uncertainties, such as fire, disease, and climate change. Any less habitat would likely doom these species to extinction throughout the region.

In closing, I would ask the Board to adopt Alternative 3 which provides the most protections to these important ecosystems.