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First name: Shannon

Last name: Loucks

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, my name is Shannon Loucks. I'm commenting today in support of a strong Habitat Conservation Plan for state forests. I also support a new Forest Management Plan that protects salmon, wildlife, clean water and provides carbon storage to fight climate change.

I am a mother and hope to one day be a grandmother. Yet, I watch each day as we drive our planet closer to destruction and I worry my grandchildren and any who come after them will not have fresh air to breathe. I want to think beyond my own life and tend to the earth in a way this is regenerative and not destructive, this is the least we can do for those generations who come after us.

I moved to Oregon in 2020 and live along the Amanda trail that walks up to Cape Perpetua, there is nothing more majestic than the way the sun filters through the trees differently through each season. These living beings deserve rights and protections as the diverse and essential resource they are.

I am asking the Board to support a strong Habitat Conservation Plan that is grounded in science and to oppose efforts to open the HCP and reduce habitat protections that would allow for thousands of additional acres of forest to be clearcut. Opening up the HCP to create more clearcuts on state forests is risky. It would cause more delays, and could endanger the entire HCP, which still must be approved by federal agencies. Please remember that state law requires you to make decisions based on the best available science. Any changes reducing protected areas would be in direct conflict with supported science. Our state forests have been overharvested for decades and that is why it is crucial to create a strong HCP. The new timber harvest estimates issued by the Department of Forestry staff

show that the HCP will restore balance to state forests, protect habitat, and allow more sustainable levels of timber harvest over time.

The 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 and would be rejected by federal agencies who must approve the plan. We need to prevent logging near tributary streams and around landslide-prone areas. And expand protective buffers to 50 feet on small streams.

Finally please at the minimum adopt Alternative 3 and consider taking even greater steps to protect our planet. If not for yourself, for your children, grandchildren and those who come after them.