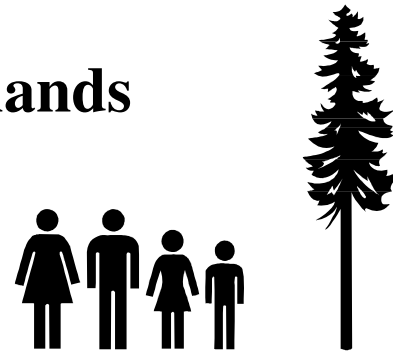


Committee for Family Forestlands

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Salem, OR 97310
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November 13, 2009

Marvin Brown, State Forester
2600 State St. SE
Salem, Or 97310

Dear Marvin,

It has come to the attention of the Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF) that the Legislative Fiscal Office has requested that State Agencies submit another round of potential General Fund budget cuts to their programs, in five and ten percent increments. We are very alarmed at the damage such cuts would do to ODF programs, if added to cuts enacted in the past legislative session.

As you are aware, the CFF was statutorily formed to advise you and the Board of Forestry on issues of concern to Oregon's family forestland owners. The viability of the ODF Fire and Private Forests Programs is certainly one of those concerns.

This past session a 15% General Fund reduction in the ODF budget was concentrated in the Private Forests Program, in an attempt to keep the Fire Program whole. The CFF agreed with the premise that protection from fire must be job number one, even though this meant reducing the capacity of the Private Forests Program by approximately 40%.

Further General Fund reductions in the Private Forests Program would jeopardize the viability of the Oregon Forest Practices Act. Moreover, such reductions in the Fire Program would put at risk one of the nation's finest forest protection programs. The savings from these reductions would be minimal to the General Fund, while the costs to both public and landowners would be great. This would be a very poor bargain!

Because of the disproportionate cuts already taken by the Private Forestry Program, the impacts already incurred and the risks associated with cuts to the Fire Program, it is the consensus of the members of the CFF that there should be no further General Fund reductions to the Department's Private Forests and Fire Programs. Please feel free to share our concerns with others.

Committee for Family Forestlands
Re: Potential Budget Reductions
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Thank you.

Committee for Family Forestlands



Craig Shinn, Chair



Gary Springer, Vice-Chair

cc John Blackwell, Chair Oregon Board of Forestry
Oregon Board of Forestry Members