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KEY POINTS IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 3210 REGARDING MANDATING
HARVEST LEVEL INCREASES ON STATE FORESTS

We respectfully request a vote against HB 3210: Wild Salmon Center, Trout Unlimited, NW Guides and Anglers Association, Sierra Club, Association of NW Steelheaders.

Mission of State Forests: The state forests addressed in HB 3210 are required to provide a broad and balanced set of values, including recreation, timber harvest, clean water, and fish and wildlife habitat. State

Harvest is Currently High: ODF analysis shows current harvests are at approximately 70% of the levels that would be reached under the Forest Practices Act (FPA).¹ ODF estimates that a “Wood Emphasis” approach like the FPA would produce 256 million board feet in the large NW districts of Tillamook, Washington, and Clatsop County. Harvests have averaged 180 million board feet over the last five years in these districts, which equals 70% of the Wood Emphasis approach.

The Public Supports Balanced Management: Over 100 organizations, government bodies, and businesses expressed support for the High Value Conservation areas that the Board of Forestry affirmed in 2013.² The High Value Conservation Areas include approximately 20% of the forest, mostly in areas near streams and on steep slopes, but also including some patches of older forest important to rare species.

Significant Clear Cut Increases: This bill would result in a much higher level of clear cutting, including the pressure to clear cut many of the new High Value Conservation Areas. Current plans call for approximately 65% of the state forests’ harvestable acres³ to be clear cut over time.

Increased Pesticide Use: Increases in clear cutting will cause increases in pesticide spraying. Currently ODF sprays thousands of acres every year following clear cuts.

Derails Science-Based Public Process: The Board of Forestry is in the middle of a delicate process to find a balanced approach to state forests. This bill will derail that inclusive and science-based public process to promote an approach that has not been subject to detailed public or science-based review.

¹ Find the last comparative and science-reviewed estimate from ODF here:

http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/BOARD/docs/April_2009/4_Att_1.pdf

² Find a list of supporters, including several government bodies, here:

<http://forestlegacy.org.s57429.gridserver.com/endorsements/>

³ It is important to distinguish “harvestable acres” from total acres in a forest. For example, stream buffers, steep slopes, campgrounds, road surfaces, power line easements, landslide areas above people’s homes and the like are not “available acres,” so they should not be considered when calculating harvest percentages. Hampton Lumber Company estimates 17% of the North Coast state forests are not available to harvest (“off base”) even under the Forest Practices Act. See that estimate here:

<http://merid.org/~media/Files/Projects/ODF/Meeting%203/70%2030%20strategy%20%20DEI%201292014>