

AGENDA

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Agenda Category: Action – Board of Commissioners

Agenda Title: **APPROVE RESOLUTION ENDORSING ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSERVATION AREAS ON STATE FOREST LANDS AND A BALANCED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR ALL STATE FOREST LANDS, INCLUDING THE TILLAMOOK STATE FOREST**

Presented by: Commissioner Dick Schouten

SUMMARY

The attached Resolution endorses efforts by the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Board of Forestry to implement conservation areas on state forest lands, including the Tillamook State Forest, and encourages the state's policy makers to pursue a sound forest policy that acknowledges the values and benefits of all forest resources including clean water, adequate fish and wildlife habitat, sustainable timber harvest, and recreation.

Attachment: Resolution

DEPARTMENT'S REQUESTED ACTION:

Approve the attached Resolution regarding the establishment of conversation areas on state forest lands and a balanced management strategy for all state forest lands.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION:

I concur with the requested action.

Agenda Item No.	<u>7.a.</u>
Date:	<u>04/02/13</u>

1 IN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
2 FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, OREGON

3 A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE) RESOLUTION
4 ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSERVATION)
5 AREAS ON STATE FOREST LANDS) No. _____
6 AND A BALANCED MANAGEMENT)
7 STRATEGY FOR ALL STATE FOREST)
8 LANDS, INCLUDING THE TILLAMOOK)
9 STATE FOREST)

7 WHEREAS Washington County is home to Oregonians with cultural and economic ties to
8 hunting, fishing, timber harvest, outdoor recreation, natural resources, and natural beauty; and

9 WHEREAS the definition of the Greatest Permanent Value of state forest lands in OAR
10 629-035-0020 states that it is “healthy, productive, and sustainable forest ecosystems that over
11 time and across the landscape provide a full range of social, economic, and environmental benefits
12 to the people of Oregon”; and

13 WHEREAS Oregon Administrative Rule 629-035-0020 specifies that the benefits derived
14 from state forest lands should include, but are not limited to:

- 15 a) Sustainable and predictable production of forest products that generate revenues for the
16 benefit of the state, counties (including Washington County) and local taxing districts;
- 17 b) Properly functioning aquatic habitats for salmonids, and other native fish and aquatic
18 life;
- 19 c) Habitats for native wildlife;
- 20 d) Productive soil, and clean air and water;
- 21 e) Protection against floods and erosion; and
- 22 f) Recreation; and

1 WHEREAS Oregonians have come to rely on our state forests for economic benefits,
2 including jobs in the timber, forest products, outdoor recreation, and fishing industries; and

3 WHEREAS management of our state’s forest resources should equally benefit Oregonians
4 from all industry sectors through diversifying our economic base and supporting family wage jobs;
5 and

6 WHEREAS on November 3, 2011, Governor Kitzhaber endorsed the concept of
7 “conservation areas” on state forest lands, directing the Board of Forestry to, “Examine and then
8 act upon the authority vested in the Board and Department to establish areas managed primarily
9 for conservation on state forests”; and

10 WHEREAS, residents of Washington County have a long tradition of hunting and fishing
11 on the state forests, and the proposed conservation area rule will in no way limit access or change
12 policy for hunting and fishing;

13 WHEREAS in the process of developing forest policy, stakeholders should be encouraged,
14 engaged, and enabled to provide input to governing bodies invested in a transparent and public
15 process;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of County
17 Commissioners hereby endorses efforts by the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Board of
18 Forestry to implement conservation areas on state forest lands, including the Tillamook State
19 Forest, and encourages the state's policy makers to pursue a sound forest policy that acknowledges
20 the values and benefits of all forest resources including clean water, adequate fish and wildlife
21 habitat, sustainable timber harvest, and recreation.
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DATED this _____ day of April 2, 2013.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, OREGON

CHAIR

RECORDING SECRETARY