



# OREGON SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

4033 SW Canyon Road • Portland, OR 97221 • 503.224.8046

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January 31, 2008

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
230 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

As Chair of the Oregon Chapter of the Society of American Foresters (OSAF), I would like to thank you for your time and effort to consider new legislation to promote much needed active management on Oregon's federal forestlands. Your by-invitation meetings and Town Hall discussions on this issue in several communities around Oregon were followed with great interest by local forestry professionals. Your interest in seeking the input of key stakeholders around the State prior to introducing new forest management legislation in the U.S. Senate is to be commended.

As has often been the case, however, one key stakeholder group not at the table at these meetings about federal forestland issues was the forestry profession, ***independent of employer or interest group affiliation***. The OSAF, with over 1,000 members from "all walks of forestry," is the primary voice for the forestry profession in Oregon. The training and experience of its members are ideal for understanding and addressing complex forest management issues, and when OSAF speaks for our diverse profession and service-to-society mission, we avoid narrow interests.

OSAF stands ready, willing and able to provide the professional forestry perspective when stakeholder input on forest issues is sought in Oregon. We ask that you please consider OSAF and the forestry profession in the future when you seek input on policy matters concerning forest resources and management. We offer you and other public leaders an outstanding opportunity to tap the highly relevant expertise and experience of those who work directly with Oregon's magnificent forest resources on a daily basis and have an incomparable understanding of the issues.

I have enclosed three position statements by OSAF that articulate the views of forestry professionals on many of the issues discussed at your recent meetings in Oregon:

- Managing Mature and Old-growth forests
- Active Management to Achieve and Maintain Healthy Forests
- Commercial Timber Harvest on Public Lands in Oregon

I believe the points made in these statements are worthy of serious consideration as you develop any new policies for federal forest management. If OSAF can provide any additional assistance or information on these or any other important forest issues, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Marc Vomocil, Chair  
Oregon Society of American Foresters

*Professionals advancing the science, technology, practice, and teaching of forestry to benefit society.*

