

Sept 4th 2002

**Re: Fire protection funding concerns in Eastern Oregon**

Dear Sir/Madam

OSWA members accept that society has a right to continually change it's demands upon forests and the families and organizations who manage them. We would ask members of the public to remember that while they may change their minds with in a second, based on new science or purchasing trends, forests and the products they generate do not adapt overnight to changes. Markets do not spring up overnight either. It can take a very long time (100 years plus) for us to adapt our management styles to the new demands. This also means it takes time to find new rewards, both market and non market based, for the products those styles lead us to produce.

We feel that we can in time cope with new demands by competing in the free market. In order for that to occur in a global market we need to either roll back FPA and other state regulation to other states or counties levels or preferably harvest a wide variety of forest based products at sustainable rates and offer services for which we are financially compensated so we do not have to compete in a global fiber war. This is especially relevant in eastern and southern Oregon due to low timber productivity rates. We also suggest we distinguish our management practices, land use planning regulations and ultimately our products from less regulated imports.

Small landowners are requesting that the Board of Forestry support efforts to develop an infrastructure, based upon a sustainable harvest from public lands that can accept a wide range of marketable products from all of Oregon's forests and woodlands. We look forward to working with the Board, ODF, other governmental departments, industry, environmental and social groups to achieve this goal.

We would ask that no new economic pressure (such as increased funding for fire protection) is placed upon Oregon's family forest landowners (1-5000 acres) as we adapt to the demands placed upon us by new trends (based on time scales of forests and forest management) such as globalization, changes in federal harvest levels that affect local infrastructure and green market developments.

Sincerely,  
Mike Gaudern  
Executive Director

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