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October 1, 2015

TO: State Forester Doug Decker
Astoria District Forester Dan Goody
Board of Forestry Chair Tom Imeson
Natural Resource Advisor Brett Brownscombe

RE: Homesteader Timber Sale

Dear State Forester Decker, District Forester Goody, Chair Imeson, and Brett Brownscombe,

This letter is following up on the Homesteader timber sale in the Astoria District. On June 24, 2015, [Dan Goody wrote a response](#) to the Sierra Club's concerns with this sale (expressed in [the Homesteader Report](#)). This response was welcome, but it failed to adequately address a number of our points. On July 23, [Trygve Steen responded to ODF](#) with a direct response to Dan Goody's points as well as an expansion of key points from our report, plus some points that had not yet been addressed. We have yet to hear back from the Department despite the importance of the Homesteader sale (especially Area 2), the public energy around it, and the critical role that old forest like this may play in an Alternative Forest Management Plan. We understand that fire season added to ODF's already large workload, but we expected a response by this point.

We would like to express an additional concern with this sale: Earlier versions of the pre-operations reports (March 2013 and March 2014) included thins (PC-L) of two areas as part of the sale. These two thins totaled \$1,069,600 gross (March 2014). Those areas/thins are no longer part of the sale. The Area 2 clearcut represents only \$624,750 gross (March 2015). Additionally, a large portion of the project cost is likely associated with the road construction in Area 2, further reducing its net value in relation to the omitted thins. We would like to know why these thins were eliminated, as well as the basis for the apparent focus on logging Area 2. Given the Department's commitment to balancing values and benefitting local taxing districts, it seems that the thinning operations are both economically and ecologically preferable to clearcutting Area 2.

There is evidence of recent work being done within Area 2 to prepare for auction and clearcutting even while many of our concerns remain unaddressed. We consider this inappropriate.

Sincerely,

Chris Smith, Conservation Program Coordinator
Oregon Chapter, Sierra Club

Trygve Steen, Ph.D., Professor of Environmental Science & Management
Portland State University