

Private Forest Accord Mitigation Advisory Committee  
Attn: Andrew Spyrka, ODFW Private Forest Accord Grant Coordinator

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony to the Private Forest Accord Mitigation Advisory Committee and for your thoughtful consideration for how the Forest Mitigation Grant program can best serve the obligations of the Private Forest Accord.

The rules governing the Private Forest Accord Mitigation Grant Program (OAR 635-097-0000 through 635-097-0110) allow for the acquisition of forest land (section 635-097-0070) provided projects mitigate the impacts of certain forest practices on certain aquatic species covered by the Private Forests Accord Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Land acquisition is a market-based approach that allows landowners to voluntarily sell land, or interests in land, to a conservation organization or public agency that will manage the land for public benefits including fish and wildlife habitat protection and restoration, water quality improvement and sustainable timber harvests.

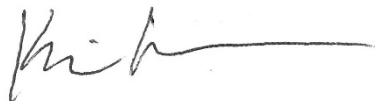
**As it relates to the first round of grants offered through the Private Forest Accord Mitigation Grant program, Trust for Public Land would like to advocate for acquisition projects to be considered.**

Trust for Public Land has been working in partnership with Oregon State University, an eligible applicant (635-097-0070) on a time sensitive 3,000-acre timber land acquisition project. We have secured a USFS Forest Legacy Grant and a grant through METRO Large Landscape Vision program. A second USFS Forest Legacy Grant is pending. The opportunity to submit a proposal through the Forest Mitigation Grant program would help provide the non-federal match that is required for the federal USFS grants and move this project towards completion. A request through PFA would not be a reimbursement but rather funds could be distributed directly into escrow at the time of closing. Both USFS and METRO have a rigorous process that will review all due diligence required for a land acquisition project.

This acquisition project, if successful, would provide OSU the opportunity to own over 3,000 acres and manage it as a research forest, with emphasis on forest health, including benefits to fish and wildlife habitat. These benefits would be aligned with PFA Evaluation Criteria (635-097-0090). The project also provides an opportunity to train, educate and provide forest related jobs. A forest management plan will be developed as part of this acquisition to ensure multiple benefits including benefits for the PFA HCP fish species are derived from this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter. Please let me know if I can answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Kristin Kovalik, Oregon Director

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