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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 (PFA) Mitigation Advisory Committee. I am writing today to share with you a land acquisition effort that we are engaged in that might represent a good case study that meets the mitigation objectives of the PFA.

Currently, Oregon State University is working in partnership with Trust for Public Land to acquire a 3,100 acre property. Depending on our success with external funding and pending OSU Board of Trustees Approval, OSU would own and actively manage the land as a research forest. An overarching set of objectives for the research forest would be to conduct forest restoration research and demonstration that would enhance forest diversity and resilience by managing for increased heterogeneity in conifer stands and reestablishing parcels of oak woodlands. Sustainable and adaptive forest management practices will be employed to research forest resilience to drought and heat stress as well as fire and insect and disease threats. This approach to sustainable and responsible management of working lands aligns with the intended purpose of the Private Forest Accord.

The research based timber management on the forest would support local economies while providing a range of K-12 and university education opportunities and provide public recreational access. This is similar to the range of practices employed at the McDonald-Dunn Forest near Corvallis, where we integrate research, education, demonstration, and public access and recreation in our management of the forest. This project is a good example of an acquisition project that might warrant consideration by the Mitigation Advisory Committee.

Thank you for considering this input. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. DeLuca
Cheryl Ramberg-Ford Allyn C. Ford Dean of the College of Forestry