

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

February 3, 1995 Hearing Room 343
1:00 P.M. Tapes 19, 20, 21, 22

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Bob Kintigh, Chair
Sen. Bill Bradbury
Sen. Bill Dwyer
Sen. Tom Hartung
Sen. Rod Johnson, Vice Chair
Sen. Marylin Shannon

MEMBER EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT:

Bruce McIntosh, Committee Administrator
Catrina Victor, Committee Assistant

MFASURES HEARD: Informational meeting on recycling issues and programs in Oregon.

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TAPE 19A,

01 Chair Kintigh: 1:05 P.M. Meeting called to order. Explanation of process for testimony

to follow

26 Sen. Johnson: Brief overview and description of SCR-2 (exhibit A).

60 Chair Kintigh: The resolutions will be hand delivered at the end of the meeting.

71 Paul Ehinger: Refers to specific areas of , CR-2 and the figures in relation to job loss.

(exhibit B). Describes the various categories and information provided within the packet

Stresses that we are turning to other countries and states to get lumber to keep our mills going which in turn cost everyone.

147 Mr. Ehinger: This is an urgent matter. Lumber needs to start coming form our own state

there is no need to import.

158 Sen. Johnson: Can you explain what you do?

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163 Mr. Ehinger: Responds. Reviews job history and work experience. We are loosing our timber markets because we cannot compete.

200 Sen. Johnson: The figures you've provided in the hand out, are they three year figures?

207 Mr. Ehinger: Yes.

211 Ralph Saperstein: Northwest Forestry Association. Reviews his handout exhibit C.

One reasons for problems the government has is that many of the staff have been cut.

Other reasons may stem from problems that have been caused by the endangered species act.

However there are no endangered specie on this land. Screening of timber is also creating problems.

293 Sen. Johnson: In your opinion is "unconscionably senseless" accurate for what's going on in eastern Oregon?

310 Mr. Saperstein: That's an understatement, that term is mildly accurate.

315 Sen. Johnson: Is it true lot's of people and lot's of communities depend on the timber

industry for support?
318 Mr. Saperstein: Absolutely.
322 Sen. Johnson: The forest practicing industry makes a significant and positive contribution to Oregon especially in rural areas?
330 Mr. Saperstein: Yes, very positive.
333 Sen. Johnson: Has President Clintons Federal Forest Plan resolved the timber availability crisis in Oregon?
335 Mr. Saperstein: The injunction by this plan was not released until June 1994 and it's obvious that since that time it has not worked.
344 Sen. Johnson: Can you comment on fact that if we don't harvest the sales that have been through the bid process that will result in both loss of sale preparation and investments by the Federal government and sales and bid preparation investments from the successful bidders?
364 Mr. Saperstein: Those sales are available right now but they are not allowed to go.
368 Sen. Johnson: Do you know if that one half of one percent of suitable of habitat land is a correct figure for the amount of harvest that would be represented by these joint sales?
371 Mr. Saperstein: That's probably a high figure.

375 Sen. Johnson: In your opinion have these closures caused human anguish? So far one hundred and ten mills have closed.

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380 Mr. Saperstein: Yes.
391 Sen. Johnson: If we don't change things, is it true there will be a further loss of good timber and the chance of catastrophic fire?
393 Mr. Saperstein: Yes there is a great increased risk of fire.
395 Chair Kintigh: Thank you.

Tape 20A

05 Mike Wiedeman: Please stress the social impact and issues of this resolution.
48 Mark Simmons: Appreciates the opportunity to speak and is in full support of this item and is in agreement with Mr. Saperstein and Mr. Ehinger. The government needs to take care of their forests to protect those that have land surrounding them from pests and fire.
74 Terry Moffeit: The issue with trying to save the endangered species in turn may not be a healthy option for the forests. References photos of her presentation of dead and dying forests and fires resulting from the dead wood (exhibit S).
120 William Carlson: Wheelabrator Environmental Systems. Applauds the group for bringing forth this resolution. Suggests two amendments in the rewording of items on page two (see exhibit E).
169 Sen. Johnson: Have you seen what the fire does when it jumps from sick to healthy timber?
172 Mr. Carlson: Yes. Gives a description of the fires and how to put them out.
178 Sen. Johnson: Is it possible for wildlife to live in areas where the

trees have been thinned/

180 Mr. Carlson: Yes. In the areas that have been thinned there is more foliage so small wildlife creatures are abundant.

187 Sen. Johnson: Do the trees grown in the thinned areas grow as well as the trees left untouched?

191 Mr. Carlson: Studies have shown the timber in thinned areas may grow as much as three times bigger than that of the unthinned stands.

195 Sen. Johnson: So it is possible to manage a forest through harvesting while still maintaining wildlife, increased tree growth and while lowering the fire hazards.

202 Mr. Carlson: Yes, that is correct.

212 Sen. Dwyer: How do you fertilize?

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217 Mr. Carlson: Typically very little nutrients are removed from the sites when selected. So fertilizing isn't necessary.

220 Sen. Dwyer: Do you mix the new types of trees planted?

230 Mr. Carlson: Generally a variety of trees are planted. Depends on the site.

245 Pat Allison: Our primary concern is the Snow Mountain Pine Projects and "Snow roadside Salvage Project." This screening process is hurting our city of Burns. There is 30 million board feet of timber being lost. See exhibit F and G.

292 Pat Wheeler: They have run out of timber. The timber is there it's currently not able to be used. This program is not effective in the Burns area. There are 360 thousand acres being of timber being addressed. Roughly 18 million dollars of taxpayers money is being wasted, 4 million effecting their county directly, (see exhibit 0)+.

386 Sen. Johnson: How long will the trees last those not yet harvested?

390 Mr. Wheeler: It varies, some of the trees studied were more dead than others.

415 Joyce Wheeler: We have become very active in the community due to excess time from not being employed. We're worried that there will not be any forests left for our children if something is not done. The forests need to be managed but not over managed so the timber cannot be harvested. It isn't our local governments fault for the over-management, and begs the committee to follow through with these issues to Congress.

Tape 19A

20 Pat Allison: Worries that the parks and recreation areas are becoming a safety hazard. Our tourism is falling and we are losing money in this area as well as in loss of timber. It is difficult for our community to diversify and make money in tourism if people can't camp because of the fire hazards.

80 Gloria Bradshire: There isn't going to be anymore economy left if something isn't done. Commends the committee in their support of this resolution and hopes it is successful.

95 Russell Bradshire: Mayor of Canyon City. Agrees with everyone that has spoken.

100 Irv Fletcher: Strongly urges support on this resolution. Requests that his written remarks be entered onto the record (see exhibit J).

132 Marlin Aerni: United Paper Workers. Supports the bill and hopes it goes through. There is a "chip" crisis in this industry and by the end of the year there could be serious problems. We have some of the best paid jobs in the industry and we are not loggers, we run the plants.

166 Mr. Aerni: We're losing some of the best paying jobs in the state. "Get the dead wood out and get the green wood out." Stop importation of outside wood chips.

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184 Jim Gourley: Mass job layoffs in their area. Number one impacted group in the state as far as total job loss. We need to keep good "green" timber in our communities to keep them thriving.

221 Sen. Johnson: Notes this resolution doesn't deal with just dead and dying trees but "green" trees also. Thanks Mr. Gourley for his input.

238 Steve Courtney: John Day forester. Commends the group and hopes SCR-2 will be received in Washington with the respect it deserves. The longer we wait the more timber is lost and jobs. More mills in the future will close and communities will deteriorate.

309 Sen. Johnson: Do you think the figures given in the resolution are accurate?

317 Mr. Courtney: I feel these figures are conservative.

320 Sen. Hartung: Is your mill still operating? Are you are a forester there? How long can you keep your mill operating?

334 Mr. Courtney: Yes. Yes. Approximately 18 months.

345 Ted Feirollie: The Forest service is greatly decreasing staff and services. The wood coming from our county is not enough to sustain the mills currently there. We may never recover from these losses. Has provided additional letters from the community in support of this resolution. Urges the committee to look at the materials provided (see exhibit N).

Tape 20B

30 Sen. Johnson: In the resolution, in reference to "agency paralysis," do you feel this is

an accurate phrase?

35 Mr. Feirollie: Yes and gives an example of the paralysis. Also, how they hope as

a committee group will relay this information to Congress.

69 Sen. Johnson: States an example of burned trees in relation to the buffer provided

along streams and rivers.

80 Sen. Bradbury: Do you mean the trees should be harvested? Or should they be

harvested according to Federal guidelines in relation to the endangered species statutes?

103 Sen. Johnson: Clarifies.

113 Mr. Feirollie: Gives support for the current resolution before the committee.

123 Bob Hanel: Hanel Lumber in Hood River. Tremendous loss of jobs due to the timber reduction. Yes they do have touriSMjobs but they cannot replace

the lost timber jobs. Our mill was cut back 20% in December and may close within the next 3-6 months. We are totally in support of this resolution.

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153 Sen. Bradbury: There has been a lot of changes in this area not necessarily related to this specific timber restriction.

160 Mike Winters: Douglas County Commissioner. He and his organization(s) are in full support of this resolution. Selected screening shows no common sense. We need economic change

(exhibit P).

223 Carol Malmay: Small business owner. Has been effected even though is not directly

employed in the timber industry. The government is basically stealing money right from the pockets of the taxpayers. We support this resolution and the time for change is better now

than it has ever been. (See exhibit H).

295 Rick Barnes: Thanks the committee. This is an extremely important issue. Perhaps this will

display to people that logging isn't always bad. Not harvesting stresses the existing trees and lowers the timber mortality rate (exhibit I). Concerned with the four year time limit.

Appreciates the efforts of the committee.

380 Sen. Johnson: Agrees with Mr. Barnes and shares his concerns about the four year limit.

Tape 21A

17 Ron Culberson: Picks up the ORS Statutes to display how much paper the average person uses everyday. And where are we going to get the timber? Lends support to this resolution.

75 Jim Denison: Concurs with Mr. Culberson. Agrees with everyone that has spoken today.

Supports this resolution and hopes the federal government will solve this problem instead of analyzing it and wasting more time.

90 Wayne Giesy: The system of filing a protest and of tree screening has to be reviewed.

Recommends this resolution and commends the committee for their action.

162 Glen Spain: Fishermen's Association, a non-environmental group. This group is in

opposition of to resolution. We the fisherman are also effected by this shortage of timber but

don't want to over-ride environmental protection acts. It doesn't do anyone any good to over use our natural resources.

236 Mr. Spain: Suggests that Congress fully fund option nine and quickly implement it.

Regretfully opposes the bill.

261 Sen. Shannon: Asks Spain to Clarify "glean."

280 Mr. Spain: Clarifies. Adds that he is not against gleaning if it doesn't hurt the environment. I have a problem with the wording of this item.

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300 Sen. Johnson: Believes this wouldn't effect the salmon. The auffleiciency wording is important

to this resolution, otherwise these logs won't get cut.

329 Jim Larson: Yellow Ribbon. Supports this resolution. References hand out and spotted owl

harvest has had great story causing the initial cut backs in the timber harvest. The lack of effects on the smaller communities (exhibit D).

Tape 22A

05 Dick Briggs: Consultant. Supports the resolution and suggests the Committee look at the hand-outs provided. We are not over using our resources there is room for more harvesting.

Thank you.

19 Paul Ketchem: Audbon Society. Respectfully opposes to SCR-2 (see exhibit T).

Recommends extended hearings before taking SCR-2 to the House floor and Congress.

Points out we are talking about public lands not private. People should be made aware that

lands shouldn't be thought of just for timber us, but for animals, clean air and water, also recreational purposes. Recommend "revamping" this resolution.

73 Sen. Johnson: Is it in your groups opinion that the owl will become extinct if this resolution is approved?

80 Mr. Ketchem: No one can truly answer that. We would suggest experts get before the panel to explain the effect of the logging on the habitat.

100 Sen. Johnson: You feel the individuals that originally drafted this bill are "experts."

So are you willing to put reliance into their conclusions? Without laws like this, organizations like yours will continue to stop logging harvests. We are not being unreasonable in this bill.

131 Mr. Ketchem: That is not a fair question. Our organization and it's "experts" are not the group that developed this plan or the ones that are stopping the timber harvests.

144 Sen. Shannon: "We are in America, and in Oregon no legislative body or city council can bind future ones." The laws that were passed in the previous session were passed by those

people and there is no reason we cannot take a fresh look at these issues.

154 Mr. Ketchem: There ought to be full disclosure of this resolution to all Oregonians.

Feels at this hearing, it's apparent not all of the groups were represented.

160 Chair Kintigh: States there was sufficient notice of this hearing for the general public and various organizations to attend.

170 Sally Cross: State Government Director for Natural Resources Council. Speaks in opposition

of this resolution. Notes the large decline in salmon runs and how over cutting has attributed to it.

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200 Greg Miller: Director of State Purchasers of Oregon Timber Council. Potential problems are land access. We support this strong message to Congress (exhibit L).

250 Gill Riddell: Association of Oregon Counties. Shares in the concerns relating to the timber crisis. Supports this resolution.

276 James McCulley: Association of Oregon Loggers. Has provided a packet for the committee. References visual aids of the substantial damage of the pests. Additional photos are provided in the hand out, exhibit M.

310 Chair Kintigh: Asks that letters and faxes sent to be placed into the record. At 3:45 P.M. meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,	Reviewed by, /
Catrina Victor	ce McIntosh
Committee Assistant	Committee Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY:

- A-Senate Bill SCR-2 Copv
- B -Testimony by Paul Ehinger-22pgs.
- C - Pacekt submitted by Bill Carlson-7pgs.
- D -Testimony by .lim Larson-3pgs.
- E -Testimony by William Carlson
- F - Testimony by Pav Wheeler
- G -Letter submitted by Travis Huntlev-3pgs.
- H-Testimonv by Carol Malmav-2pgs.
- I -Testimony by Rick Barnes-3pgs.
- J - Letter sent by Cassandra Botts-3pgs.
- K - Item submitted by Irv Fletcher
- L -Testimony submitted by Greg Miller-3pgs.
- M - James McCaulev information packet 18pgs.
- N - Ted Ferrioli information packet-22pgs.
- O - Letter submitted by Alton Hammill
- P - Testimonv by Mike Winters
- R - Letter submitted by Dan Bishop-2pgs.
- S - Booklet submitted by Terry Moffeit-13pgs.

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