

Board of Forestry Salmonberry Trail Project

Testimony of David Kunert, Division Forester

January 7, 2015

I am David Kunert, a Division Forester with Hampton Lumber. Having spent the last twenty years of my professional career on the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests, I am intimately familiar with the Salmonberry River basin.

I have been involved in the public process of developing the Salmonberry Corridor Concept Plan (SCCP) since the process began in 2012. I have participated by attending public meetings, providing comments (both verbal and written) as well as touring segments of the proposed trail location.

The original DRAFT of the SCCP indicated that a trail segment would pass through Hampton's manufacturing facility in Tillamook. If you review the FINAL DRAFT, you will notice on pages 43 and 44, the trail will terminate prior to Hampton Lumber in Tillamook. I would like to commend the members of the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust (namely Rocky Huston) for honoring our request as well as understanding our safety concerns by no longer promoting the construction of a non motorized trail through our active industrial site.

I would like to take this opportunity to point out "*The Vision*" on page five of the SCCP. The vision references Senate Bill 1516 that was passed unanimously by both the Senate and House in March of 2014.

There are two specific subsets in this Senate Bill that are important to understand and not be glossed over:

(B) *Ensure that the designation of trail segments will not affect surrounding private property rights, including rights of way and easements, or require management of privately owned lands in a manner different from that required under the Oregon Forest Practices Act*

(C) *Ensure that the development, maintenance and operation of the trail segments do not affect active management of lands for their intended purposes as provided under ORS 530.050 and 530.490.*

ORS 530.050 requires the management of land acquired by the State Forester and ORS 530.490 specifies how the State Forester shall grant easements.

There is also an important statement made on page six of the SCCP. It reads: "*The Salmonberry Corridor IS **NOT** a restriction on adjacent land uses*".

It is obvious there is a tremendous amount of support for this project but it appears to me the heavy lifting has just begun. I look forward to the continued conversations as the concept of a trail is further explored and remain optimistic that the Salmonberry Corridor Plan can simultaneously cohabitate with active timber management. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.