



**SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

Preparing children for an ever changing world

504 N. Third Ave. / PO Box 28
Rockaway Beach, OR 97136

Phone: 503-355-2222

Fax: 503-355-3434

www.nknsd.org

Thursday, May 26, 2022

Dr. Kim Kratz
Assistant Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
1201 Northeast Lloyd
Portland, OR 97232

Dr. Paul Henson
Oregon State Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2600 SE 98th Avenue
Portland, OR 97266

RE: Comments Regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan (Docket ID NOAA-NMFS-2021-0019)

Dear Dr. Kratz and Dr. Henson:

As the Neah-Kah-Nie School District Superintendent, I have testified before the Oregon Department of Forestry Board and have written numerous letters to the Board with my concerns how reductions in timber harvests negatively affect the Neah-Kah-Nie School District's funding. This year, I have met with ODF staff and school superintendents and business managers from Nestucca School District, Jewell School District, Seaside School District, and Northwest Regional ESD. The purpose of these meetings was to inform school district leaders how the draft (HCP) and draft (DEIS) would affect the current financial stability of these school districts.

The Neah-Kah-Nie School District is a PreK-12 public school located on the north Oregon coast. With approximately 750 students, Neah-Kah-Nie School District is recognized for strong academic programs, a high graduation rate, and innovative initiatives like the NKN Student Health & Wellness Center.

Since Neah-Kah-Nie School District does not receive Basic School Support and relies almost exclusively on state timber and local property taxes, the draft (HCP) and draft (DEIS) would have a severe impact on our budget. This year, NKN School District received approximately \$4.1M in state timber. Next year, this will be reduced to \$3.1M and the following year \$1.3-\$2.2M. A projected nearly three million dollar funding reduction in three years will severely affect the services provided to our students.

On behalf of the Neah-Kah-Nie School District, I am writing to express concerns with the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). It is disappointing that the ODF drafted a plan that would reduce timber harvests on state forestlands, resulting in a reduction in funding for our school district and beyond. We hope a better plan can be drafted before the process concludes.

We ask state and federal policymakers to consider more options that would increase harvest and revenues for local schools. Our students, their families, and the surrounding communities desperately need the state to strike a better balance of the economic, environmental, and social values these forests support.

Thank you for considering our concerns and our student's futures.

Sincerely,

Paul Erlebach, Superintendent
Neah-Kah-Nie School District

Cynthia Grellck, President
NKN Teacher Ed. Association

Jamie Nugent, President
NKN Classified Association

Sandy Tyrer, Chair
NKN School Board of Directors

CC:
Oregon Board of Forestry
Cal Mukumoto, Oregon State Forester
Jason Miner, Office of Governor Kate Brown