



**SCHOOL  
DISTRICT**

*Preparing children for an ever changing world*

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August 28, 2023

Dear Chair Kelly and Board of Forestry Members:

On behalf of the Neah-Kah-Nie School District, we are writing to express concerns with the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). It is disappointing that the ODF drafted a plan that would reduce timber harvests on state forestlands, resulting in less funding for our school district and hardships for many local families who work in the forest products sector.

The Neah-Kah-Nie School District is a PreK-12 public school system located on the North Oregon coast, encompassing the communities of Bay City, Garibaldi, Rockaway Beach, Wheeler, Nehalem, and Manzanita. The attendance zone is 400 square miles from Bay City to Clatsop County line. We employ 141 faculty members at six schools and with approximately 780 students, Neah-Kah-Nie School District is recognized for strong academic programs, a high graduation rate, and innovative initiatives like our 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 would have a severe impact on our budget. Last year, we received approximately \$4.1M in revenue from state timber sales. This year, timber revenue will be reduced to \$3.1M and next year to \$1.3-\$2.2M. A projected three million dollar funding reduction in three years will severely affect the services provided to our students through well-maintained facilities, engaging curriculums, high quality professional development, and up-to-date technology for our students and staff.

In our rural district, our students rely on timber revenues in order to create a learning environment equitable to services offered in districts in metropolitan areas. If the current draft of the HCP is adopted, it is our children who will be most negatively affected.

Economic and environmental benefits from state forests are not mutually exclusive but this HCP assumes one cannot exist with the other and disadvantages our students. This imbalance can and must be corrected. We hope you will strike a better balance of the economic, environmental, and social values these forests support.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,

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Dr. Tyler Reed, Superintendent

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Sandy Tyrer, School Board Chair

CC: Governor, Tina Kotek  
Representative, Cyrus Javadi  
Senator, Suzanne Weber  
Congresswoman, Suzanne Bonamici  
U S Senator, Ron Wyden  
U S Senator, Jeff Merkley