



## Budget Impacts to State Forests Division

June 2009

**State depends on timber revenue.** ODF's State Forests Division depends on revenue from timber sales to fund its operations. The division operates on a one-third share of timber sale receipts. The other two-thirds goes to counties where the operations occurred. The Division's revenue from timber sales is declining sharply, due to lack of demand for wood products.

**Loss of jobs.** Necessary budget reductions include eliminating about 50 full-time positions in the State Forests Division, along with 35 part-time, seasonal and intern positions. These job losses come from a total workforce of about 300. Many of these jobs are in rural communities.

**Harvest objectives at risk.** Reductions to key staff – including field foresters, managers and technical support – combined with an uncertain market jeopardizes our ability to meet harvest objectives and revenue levels to counties.

**Basic reforestation.** Tree-planting and reforestation practices after harvesting will meet basic requirements, possibly limiting future economic and environmental goals.

**Recreation cutbacks.** At a time when the demand for recreation on state forests is increasing, the Division's ability to manage for this demand will be greatly reduced. The program will be challenged to maintain the existing recreation infrastructure and mitigate conflicts between diverse forest users.

**Fewer education programs.** Few education programs will continue. The Tillamook Forest Center will close in the winter, curtailing services for the public, teachers and students.

**Reduced Fire Protection.** Staffing to coordinate and fight forest fires will be in short supply because many of those State Forests Division staff destined to lose their jobs also fill key roles on fires.

**Conservation shortfall.** Investments in the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds to restore and enhance fish habitat will go unfinished.

**Limited research and monitoring.** Learning from forest science and experience will be constrained, inhibiting our ability to adapt to improve our forest management practices.

**Public disconnect.** Meeting and interacting with the public – forest users, stakeholders and interest groups – will be significantly reduced.