

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

Platform Committee

5/18/2017

RESOLUTION 2017.15

A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

Relating to Carbon Sequestration

WHEREAS, rising global atmospheric CO₂ and other greenhouse gas levels are of grave concern; and

WHEREAS, Oregon is a leader in establishing ambitious carbon reduction goals, these stated goals include establishing a Global Warming Commission's Forestry Carbon Accounting Project and the assessment and monitoring of forest carbon throughout Oregon. So far these goals have not been funded or carried out; and

WHEREAS, the Forestry Technical Committee's Forestry Roadmap to 2020 states that, "Major forest policy and management decisions are informed by a clear accounting of the consequent change in carbon storage that will occur" and this has not yet been weighed in with regard to the Elliott State Forest; and

WHEREAS, Oregon State University is home to some of the world's most highly respected forest carbon researchers and scientists; and

WHEREAS, the forests of Oregon are unmatched in their capacity to sequester CO₂; and

WHEREAS, for example, the Elliott State Forest contains 82,000 acres, including about 40,000 acres of mature, unmanaged stands and some of the last remnants of Oregon's old growth, making it prime for carbon sequestration; and

WHEREAS, Oregon's current logging practices result in sub-optimum forest ecological function; and

WHEREAS, Oregon's rural economies are in need of additional stimulus; and

WHEREAS, public and private timberland owners need an ecologically sustainable source of revenue that will allow them to manage their land profitably; and

WHEREAS, new markets for carbon sequestration credits from forests are providing significant

income to forests managed in conformance with program requirements; and

WHEREAS, carbon markets monetize forest ecosystem productivity with no damage to the forest; and

WHEREAS, monitoring of forest carbon has the potential to create significant employment opportunities in Oregon's rural communities, including thousands of forest technology jobs doing the fieldwork necessary to log and monitor large scale carbon credit projects; and

WHEREAS, carbon sequestration could be a transformative industry for Oregon's ecosystems and economy; and

WHEREAS, the state currently owns only 3% of Oregon forests and the Oregon Global Warming Commission's mandate is to **acquire** forestlands that can be conserved, restored and managed, not sell them off.

WHEREAS, the application of the carbon sequestration model to state forests may be a viable option to keep the forest in public hands while offering steady financial returns, social and environmental benefits.

THEREFORE the Democratic Party of Lane County Resolves:

SECTION 1. We support continued public ownership of Oregon state forests, which will utilize ecologically sensitive forest management policies to preserve their globally significant ecological value, while creating and retaining jobs.

SECTION 2. We support developing a cap-and-fee, carbon tax or other program to monetize the productivity of Oregon forest ecosystems through the sale of forestry carbon offsets.

SECTION 3. We support making Oregon a research leader in forest ecosystem productivity and forest carbon offset sales by basing the Global Warming Commission's Forestry Carbon Accounting Project in the Elliott State Forest.

**Resolved by the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Lane County,
Assembled in Eugene, Oregon, May 18, 2017**

Signed:

X _____ . X _____ .

Chris Wig

Celine Swenson-Harris

Chair

Secretary