

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Opposing Ballot)
Measure 34, entitled the "Tillamook)
50/50 Plan")

RESOLUTION NO. 62-2004

WHEREAS, under a ground-breaking program conceived jointly by state and county governments out of the ashes of the great Tillamook Burns beginning in the 1930's, fifteen Oregon counties transferred ownership of their forestlands to the State in exchange for management consultation and a defined share of revenues produced from those lands; and

WHEREAS, until 2003 every amendment to a statutory provision related to this Forest Trust Land program has been agreed to by the affected counties, making the program an excellent example of intergovernmental respect, consultation, and partnership; and

WHEREAS, in January 2001, after seven years of public processes, including adoption by the Board of Forestry of the Greatest Permanent Value Rule; public meetings, newsletters, field tours, committees representing diverse public interests, and public forums; two separate scientific reviews; and development of the innovative regime of Structure-Based Management, the Board of Forestry adopted State Forest Management Plans and followed with adoption of the accompanying Implementation Plans; and

WHEREAS, Structure-Based Management is an active, adaptive landscape management system that promotes growth of diverse and appropriate tree species and habitat types and is highly sensitive to water quality, habitat, recreation, social, and economic needs; and

WHEREAS, Structure-Based Management, with its win-win approach, may well prove to be the answer to the deep controversy and grid-lock that plagues management of the federal forests; and

WHEREAS, an initiative, Ballot Measure 34, entitled the "Tillamook 50/50 Plan", will be on the November General Election ballot; and

WHEREAS, Measure 34 seeks to prevent implementation of Structure-Based Management on the landscape, by resorting to the old, mechanical, reserve-based management systems, which creates controversy, stymies creative win-win/and-and solutions, and ignores social and economic needs. This ill-conceived approach is proving to be inadequate in long-term protection of habitat; and

WHEREAS, Measure 34 is extraordinarily expensive, for example costing the four counties of the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests (Tillamook, Clatsop, Washington and

Columbia) \$15.3 million in annual revenues for essential public services, according to the official fiscal impact estimate of the measure; and

WHEREAS, Measure 34 not only destroys the promise of Structure-Based Management, but also destroys the long-standing and exemplary State-County Forest Trust Land program; and

WHEREAS, the Measure 34 concept is without any scientific underpinnings, unnecessary to protect habitat, ill-advised, and too expensive.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Columbia County Board of Commissioners strongly urges the citizens of this county and of Oregon to vote "no" on Measure 34 at the 2004 General Election.

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 28th day of July, 2004.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 
Rita Bernhard, Chair

By: 
Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

By: 
Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner