



Claire Withycombe/Oregon Capital Bureau
Gov. Kate Brown, left, Greg Miller, representative of the timber coalition, and Bob Van Dyke, of the Wild Salmon Center, announce a deal between logging and environmental interests on Monday.

Deal: ‘Agreement is a genuine show of good faith from everyone involved’

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Lumber, Roseburg Forest Products, Hancock Natural Resource Group and Port Blakely and the Oregon Small Woodlands Association on the timber side. Oregon Wild, Cascadia Wildlands, Beyond Toxics, the Wild Salmon Center, Oregon League of Conservation Voters and Rogue Riverkeeper highlight the environmental groups that signed on.

“This agreement is a genuine show of good faith from everyone involved,” Brown said at a news conference. “It ensures that all key voices will be heard in the process, including our vital small-woodland owners and Oregon’s federally recognized tribes. All sides have agreed this process of improving the Oregon Forest Practices Act will be informed by science and driven by science.”

Present in Brown’s ceremonial office to make the announcement with her was Bob Van Dyke, of the Wild Salmon Center, representing the environmentalists, and Greg Mill, representing the timber coalition.

“This is a shared recognition of the diverse benefits Oregon’s forests provide and the need for more meaningful dialogue around forest issues across the state,”

Miller said.

According to Brown, the agreement between the two sides started when CEOs from the state’s largest timber companies approached her to find a way out of the embroiled dialogue surrounding timber practices and conservation. A series of conversations followed over the past four weeks that led to the agreement.

For Van Dyke, the agreement culminates more than 20 years of bickering and lawsuits between timber interests and environmentalists over what takes place in Oregon’s forests while Washington state led the way in conserving endangered species and protecting drinking water.

“While the Wild Salmon Center and many of the signers of this MOU today have been part of that 20 years of tension, the results have been a lack of trust, gridlock on forest policy and growing public demand for broader reform of laws,” Van Dyke said. “Today we’re starting a new approach.”

From a 10,000-foot level, the deal seems to favor environmental interests, but Miller believes that isn’t so.

According to Miller, the timber industry in Oregon is proud of its environmental stewardship and equally interested in protecting water from aerial spray-

ing of herbicides and using technology to let local residents know in real time of spraying.

“This is going to be a best-in-class practice for real-time notification, increasing the distance for the notifications, and having the spray records available within 24 hours,” Miller said. “Those kinds of things are difficult to develop in terms of execution on the ground ... I think that’s the thing that got us over the hurdle.”

The agreement cites moving forward with a science-based approach, but often the two sides have offered different science to back their positions. Miller and Van Dyke agreed that while they guarantee there still will be differences of opinion, they’re committed to using science as a means to engage and work together on solutions.

Brown said that moving forward, the next step would be to shepherd through the Legislature new rules and buffers on aerial spraying in forests and notification for local residents. After that, both sides will update the Oregon Forest Practices Act and create the statewide habitat conservation plan.

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Food cart: ‘We’re doing this to get known’

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Eric Irvine has a degree from Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts, works at another restaurant and helps her prep. The couple had originally planned to open a restaurant, but found food carts a lower barrier to entry.

“Food carts tend to do better than a lot of restaurants, so ... we’re doing this to get known,” he said.

They inherited Bruhn’s donut machine when they bought the cart, but found it wasn’t worth the liability and space it took to fry donuts inside. They hope to sell the

machine to someone who will then sell them donuts. As the summer hits, they hope to expand their offerings and start barbecuing outside.

In the rainy season, carts focus on staying afloat and drawing in locals. Like some of their neighbors, the Irvines hope property owner Michael Bruhn will install a covered area for customers. He has resisted over fears the homeless will camp out there.

“My point of view is, they’re hanging out whether we give them a covered area or not,” Sally Irvine said. “So if they wanted to get into any of our stuff or be bad people, they’re going to do it whether

there’s a covered area or not ... It would sure help us business-wise.”

Keeping it Sweet and Simple isn’t the only change at the food cart pod, which recently lost Sasquatch Sandwich Shop to another pod outside Reach Break Brewing and Reveille Ciderworks farther east on Duane Street. Sasquatch took the place of Abbie and Dan Rhoads’ Hot Box Barbecue and Hong Kong Taco carts, which the couple recently closed before relocating to California.

Keeping it Sweet and Simple opens mornings and afternoons Monday through Saturday.

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