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**Statement of Tom Partin, President, American Forest Resource Council
on Senator Ron Wyden's announced Framework for O&C Legislation**

The Framework released by Senator Wyden acknowledges the need to pass legislation that “will create jobs in the woods. . .and establish a permanent and stable source of revenue for O&C counties.” We appreciate his interest in finding a lasting solution for the O&C lands that will resolve the forest and community health crisis that has plagued rural Oregon for the last 20 years.

AFRC looks forward to working closely with Senator Wyden on the specifics of a legislative package, including how we can best achieve the following:

- Provisions that provide real certainty that specific timber harvest levels adequate to support local mills, communities, and economies will be achieved by ensuring forest management will be practiced on the ground, not fought over in the courtrooms;
- An approach to timber management that is sustainable in the long term and protects our federal forests and neighboring private lands from catastrophic fire, insects and disease; and
- A management regime that is economically feasible and generates adequate net revenues to support local governments.

“We agree with the Senator that there is a need to modernize existing federal laws as they apply to O&C lands. For more than 20 years, those opposed to timber harvesting have used the inherent conflict between major pieces of federal law and policy to keep the O&C lands from fulfilling their purpose of contributing to the economic stability of local communities. Resolving those conflicts will not be an easy task. As Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator Wyden is in an excellent position to do that work.”

The American Forest Resource Council represents forest product manufacturers and landowners throughout the west and is based in Portland, Oregon. www.amforest.org

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