



Riparian Rulemaking for Streamside buffers associated with Salmon, Steelhead, and/or Bull Trout Streams
Oregon Department of Forestry
Private Forests Division
March 2016

Background

- ODF study (“RipStream”) assessed effects of forest harvest on riparian shade and stream temperature along medium and small fish streams (18 Private, 15 State Forest sites); analysed if met DEQ water temperature standards:
 - State and Private sites did meet Numeric Criteria (16°C, 18°C)
 - Private sites did not, State sites did, meet Protecting Cold Water (PCW) criterion (no change >0.3°C)
- Board of Forestry found Degradation of Resource (Jan. 2012) [ORS 527.714(5a)], based on PCW analysis, and initiated Riparian Rule Analysis in western Oregon
- The Oregon Board of Forestry ruled to increase streamside buffers on many streams in western Oregon. The decision applies to streams that are:
 - West of the crest of the Cascades but not in the Siskiyou region; and
 - Classified as being a small or medium fish-bearing stream by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF); and
 - Determined to support salmon, steelhead or bull trout.
- This decision will increase buffer widths on applicable streams by 10 feet and more than doubled the amount of trees to be left uncut.
- The decision included options to provide economic relief for smaller parcels and to provide an alternative prescription for streams that run in an east-west direction.
- Rules must still be written on this decision and may take over a year to be formalized. This process will allow public review and input through public attendance at committee meetings, public hearings where written and verbal testimony can be provided, and receipt of written comment anytime.
- For all other streams, the current rules will continue to apply.

Work to Date

- A rulemaking advisory committee has been established by the Board of Forestry to provide input on rule language and fiscal impact.
- The second meeting of the rulemaking advisory committee is scheduled for March 22, 2016, with a third meeting scheduled on April 15, 2016. All meetings start at 9:00 a.m. Public is welcome to attend.
- A public website has been established. Information can be found on the Oregon Department of Forestry website, www.oregon.gov/ODF at [Streamside \(Riparian\) Buffer Rules](#).
- A Board decision is expected in June 2016 regarding proposed rule language associated with prescription options available to landowners.

Questions or comments?

- Email: RiparianRule@oregon.gov, subject “Stream Rules”
- Online: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/AboutODF/Pages/Comment.aspx>
- Mail: Oregon Department of Forestry, 2600 State Street, Salem, Oregon 97310. Attn: “Stream Rules”