

The Northwest Guides Association

To protect, enhance, and promote healthy sportfisheries and the ecosystems they depend on in the Pacific Northwest.

Oregon Board of Forestry
Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State St.
Salem, Oregon 97310

re: Increase in harvest on state owned lands

Dear Members of the Board of Forestry:

I apologize for my absence for today's meeting. As I expected, the birth of my daughter just 5 days ago takes precedent of live testimony at today's hearing. As you likely know however, the issue of harvest management is taken very seriously with the membership of the NW Guide's and Anglers Association. We have a membership totaling over 60 individuals and businesses that subscribe to our mission.

Thank you for taking my written testimony on the proposal to increase harvest levels on the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests. We comment on this proposal on the concern that an increase in harvest is likely to contribute to the further degradation of our watershed's water quality which is clearly affecting our wild populations of salmon and steelhead.

As my previous testimony has pointed out before, summer temperatures on many of our coastal watersheds fails to meet the minimum temperature standards required for the successful rearing and spawning of wild salmonids. This stand-alone fact in itself points out the failing directive of the definition of the Greatest Permanent Value.

I know I don't need to point out the definition of GPV to you but under (1)(b) listed is one key element of 6 stating that "Properly functioning aquatic habitats for salmonids, and other native fish and aquatic life" is a required benefit. If you check the TMDL's (Total Maximum Daily Loads) under DEQ standards, you will see how many reaches of critical watershed habitats fail to meet this requirement.

Furthermore, under subheading (2)(a) referencing active management of state lands "to provide sustainable timber harvest and revenues to the state, counties and local taxing districts" is also the *management focus* to pursue "Results in a high probability of maintaining and restoring properly functioning aquatic habitats for salmonids, and other native fish and aquatic life".

(BACK)

The GPV rule and Forest Management Plan process was vetted extensively in public forums and it seems that this new direction by staff and county trust lands compromises this process for which many of us participated in. Also, given the new forest models that ODF has come up with, it appears that current forest harvest levels doesn't meet the definition of sustainable under its own sideboards.

As a resident of Tillamook County, I realize the importance of revenue to our general services but not at the cost of another resource that is responsible for stimulating the economy of our county. It's robbing Peter to pay Paul and the long term ramifications for this action will likely end up causing a net loss to our communities as our lost fishing seasons have in the recent decade.

Many of our members, including myself have just received our stipend for the Pacific States Fisheries Marine Commission's Salmon Disaster Relief Fund. Although this does not begin to make up for the lost revenue that we've experienced in recent years, it does help meet the needs of our families. We don't want this welfare to become a standard for our industry.

Specifically, we ask that the board NOT support the proposed increase that ODF staff and trust counties are forwarding and to take a critical look at more permanent protections for the Salmon Anchor Habitat Strategy if the science shows it has merit. Furthermore, the permanent protection of all conifers in the adjacent 100 feet of all fish bearing streams helps ensure proper recruitment of this complex critical habitat component into our streams and provides necessary shading and water cooling capabilities in the hot summer months when large numbers of wild salmon perish in our watersheds.

Finally, you all know the plummeting demand and prices for timber make this a bad option from a business perspective for our counties and state. We hope you can take this into consideration when making your decision.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions and we sincerely appreciate your commitment to a better working state forest.

In Gratitude,

Bob Rees, President

NW Guides and Anglers Association
(503) 812-9036
brees@pacifier.com