



Providing Opportunity to Family Forestland Owners

June 3, 2015

To: Board of Forestry

From: Scott Hanson, President, Oregon Small Woodlands Association

Re: Riparian Rulemaking Process

As a forestland owner and OSWA member

My name is Scott Hanson, I have owned 92 forestland acres in Marion County for 21 years. There is 3630 lineal feet of small and medium fish bearing streams on my property. The timber in the riparian area is 35 years old and 60% is hardwoods. The current riparian rules encompass 11.2% of my property with a timber value of \$44,000. A 100 foot no touch buffer would encompass an additional \$42,000 of timber value. One of my management goals is to provide supplemental income for my family during my retirement years.

Please do not take my asset value from me to solve a perceived problem that does not exist. Science clearly shows the small temporary stream temperature increases resulting from timber harvest following the Forest Practices Act have no negative impact to fish species in those forest streams. Major changes to the Forest Practices Act are not justified. I support the changes recommended by the Regional Forest Practices Committee. A reasonable and balanced approach to address stream temperatures as well as the beneficial uses of forest streams.

As current President of Oregon Small Woodlands Association

I represent an organization with over 1500 memberships and over 3000 members. One management goal frequently found in a member's management plan is timber production. OSWA stresses the importance of operating within rules of Oregon's Forest Practices Act. We have a solid track record of managing forestland responsibly. A frequent comment I hear from OSWA members is they want to "leave the ground better than they found it". I believe that means all resources (wood, water, fish, wildlife, recreation).

Today I urge the Board to take a "light touch" on riparian rule changes to address a small to non-existent problem in temporary stream temperature increases. Moving to a 100 foot "no touch buffer" is clearly over-reach. It is unnecessary, burdensome, and inefficient. We don't need wider buffers, we need to be smarter applying minor changes to current buffer widths. The Regional Forest Practice Committee recommendations provide you an efficient and reasonable path. Their straight forward field site evaluation technique and suggested minor changes trumps a RipStream model simulation approach.

Thank you for listening to OSWA's input.

Oregon Small Woodlands Association 187 High Street NE, Suite 208, Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503.588.1813 - Fax: 503.588.1970 – Web: www.oswa.org