

Date: June 3, 2015

To: Oregon Department of Forestry Board and State Forester

From: Clair Klock – Farmer and Resource Conservationist

Board Members and State Forester Decker

I am Clair Klock from Corbett, OR. I have a small berry farm and very small parcel of forest land in Multnomah County. I am also a conservation specialist for a soil and water conservation district. Conservation districts are partners with watershed councils, and local, state, and federal agencies on salmon enhancement projects that cost billions of dollars.

I have attended and participated in a number of ODF committee meeting over the last 5 months. My primary concern is that the Oregon Forest Practices Act does not give adequate protection to streams from both erosion and pesticide runoff. My other intense concern is that the only quality, intact watersheds are located on ODF and federal lands. I am not against logging, thinning, sales, or clearcuts, but find the stream protection rules totally inadequate.

As you review the options for addressing the problem with the present Riparian Rules for the Forest Practices Act, I request the following:

1. For both water quality and forest health, I urge you to adopt the 170/275 variable retention option listed on your spreadsheet and explanation document.
2. This option provides shade, decreases fire hazards, decreases possible pesticide drift in to streams, increases vegetation diversity, and ultimately, wildlife diversity.
3. It provides ecosystem services such as increased groundwater recharge and municipal water supply protection in the riparian and immediate upland zones next to the stream.
4. Yes – this option does have an economic impact. Previous generations have overdrawn on our ecosystem services account by choosing poor practices in the past. We (individual and corporation entities) need to pay for it now for the benefit of our children and grandchildren. It would be great to have incentives for these options, however our local, state, and federal budget can not handle a program of this magnitude.

Thank you for your attention.