

July 23, 2015

Testimony to Oregon Board of Forestry

Don Kessi – Forest Landowner in Lincoln County

My name is Don Kessi, and my wife Frieda and I own and manage 750 acres of timber land in Lincoln County. We are the second generation in my family to manage this resource since the 1940's. There are 30,000 linear feet of small and medium fish bearing streams on this acreage. The timber in these riparian areas is between 25 and 60 years old and approximately 50% hardwoods. A current value of this merchantable timber would be \$300,000. In our case a 100 ft. no touch buffer on these streams would encompass an additional \$300,000 loss of timber value. In addition to this, the riparian acreage under current guidelines amounts to approximately 12% of our total acreage.

We are fortunate in that all three of our children and their families take an active interest in our business and plan to continue to steward the resources for future generations. Creating more set aside would seriously hamper our management abilities.

As you deliberate over implementing new guidelines I must asked, are they necessary and will they prove to be beneficial over time? Research seems to show that neither would be the case. Maybe the interests of this issue would be best served by leaving management options in our guidelines rather than creating more limitations. Encouraging business and family ownership will do more to provide for a healthy balance in both the economic and environmental elements of forest management.

We would support the recommendations of the Regional Forest Practices Committees. May you consider carefully the impacts of your decision?

Don Kessi