



**Northwest Sportfishing
Industry Association**
PO Box 4, Oregon City, OR 97045

July 22, 2015

Tom Imeson, Chair
Oregon Board of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

PRESIDENT

Dan Parnel
Leisure Sales

Honorable Chair Imeson and fellow members of the Board,

VICE PRESIDENT

Trey Carskadon
BDC Advertising

On behalf of the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association (NSIA), thank you for the opportunity to testify prior to your decision regarding riparian buffers for the purposes of reducing stream temperatures. Let me first say, I don't envy your obligation here. Change is always difficult and generally comes with great opposition, but change we must.

TREASURER/SECRETARY

B.G. Ellertson
Fisherman's Marine & Outdoor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Bittle

Willie Boats

Dave Eng

Frank Amato Publications

Dick Figgins

Dick Nite Spoons

Steve Grutbo

Kershaw Knives

Ron Hiller

Tom Posey Company

Brian Kurzbein

All Sports

Fabian Lomas

Holthe Ward Lomas

Gabe Miller

Farwest Sports

Jeff Morton

Morton & Associates

Mike Perusse

Don Coffey Company

Martha Peterson

Maurice Sporting Goods

Buzz Ramsey

Buzz Ramsey Promotions

Lora Sanchez

Willapa Marine Products

Matt Schlecht

Bob's Sporting Goods

Zach Schoonover

Maxima, USA

Brad Schoenborn

B.S. Fish Tales

Scott Weedman

Three Rivers Marine & Tackle

Your deliberations are occurring against a backdrop of stream temperatures that are at lethal levels to cold water species. Right now, fish are dying from temperature pollution in many of our streams. While we all pray that this is a rare summer, in our hearts we know that without change, we are in for more rough summers. I ask members of the Board to bear in mind that NSIA business owners are absorbing one of the worst fishing summers in memory. At higher temperatures, fish are stressed and they go off the bite. Anglers stop fishing and they stop going into our stores or booking trips. This has been going on since June, and a front page article in the Oregonian declaring that Oregon hung up the "no fishing" sign harmed our businesses even more. But we're coping with fishing restrictions brought on by high stream temperatures for the good of the fish.

Now, it's the duty of the Board of Forestry and landowners to adapt to the reality of warmer summers in the future as you work to meet the cold water criterion standard. We like to share a couple of things that concern us the most about staff work in front of you:

- Foremost, we should all be concerned that Department of Forestry's staff's strongest prescription offered in Package 1 is, at best, a coin toss. 90 foot buffers have been shown to fail to meet the standard 50% of the time. We'd hope that your deliberations focus on what is necessary to meet the standard on a more reliable basis. Science indicates that 100-foot buffers provide the minimum shade to keep streams and rivers cool at 80-85% of the time. Given the certainty of climate change, this is where the Board discussions need to start.

- The protections need to apply to all fish bearing streams for obvious reasons. Cold water refugia needs to be one of our primary considerations with climate change. These fish need water temperatures where they can exist until they spawn in the fall and winter. 100 foot buffers also contribute large wood to stream complexity, pools and other factors that create lower temperatures and refugia. Finally there is the issue of enforceability. Clearly delineated no cut zones along streams are easier to define and enforce.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Liz Hamilton

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Carl Burke-Washington

George Okulitch-Oregon

SCIENCE & POLICY ADVISORS

Dr. Doug Dehart

Dan Diggs

Jim Martin

Rod Sando, Chair

Don Swartz

Maddy Sheehan, Of Counsel

No other industry is dealing with the magnitude of raising stream temperatures than the sport fishing industry. The die offs of 2015 will create a biological legacy our industry will be dealing with for multiple generations of fish returns. We implore the Board of Forestry to do its part and increase forest buffers around streams to widths that maximize our ability to attain the standard. Let's show that Oregon cares as much about the future of fishery resources and our industry at least as much as Washington, California and Idaho. Anything less leaves fish survival to chance, risking more ugly summers down the road.

Thank you for all the time and effort. Our industry truly understands how difficult this is.

In Service,

Liz Hamilton, Executive Director
NSIA