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Chair Imeson, State Forester Decker, Members of the Board,

I appreciate you hearing public comment today. My name is Chris Smith and I'm here on behalf of the Oregon Chapter, Sierra Club and our 16,000 members.

Sierra Club has been invested in Oregon forestry issues for decades. We have not been intimately involved in this process, but our members and supporters have been watching closely hoping that this Board will do right in protecting the quality and temperature of our rivers and streams.

We urge you to update the Forest Practices Rules and meet your clear legal duty with respect to water quality standards under the Oregon Forest Practices Act by adopting the strongest viable stream protection rules. Considering the ramifications of climate change, ocean conditions, and the enduring plight of our fish we hope that you will do more than just the minimum needed to scrape by until things get worse. We urge you to adopt 120 foot buffers on all fish-bearing streams—the maximum practicable option—making a clear statement that Oregonians are changing the way we deal with our natural resources. This step is amply supported by the Department's analysis of buffer effectiveness, and would signal the scientific, forward-thinking, and serious leadership that we need in order to deal with a changing ecological and economic context.

Thank you for considering these comments,

Chris Smith, Conservation Program Coordinator
Oregon Chapter, Sierra Club