



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Department of Forestry

State Forester's Office

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December 14, 2010



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

Melissa Leoni  
Senior Policy Coordinator  
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
775 Summer St. NE # 360  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Ms. Leoni:

In support of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, the State Board of Forestry acts on all matters pertaining to forestry, including collecting and sharing information about the conditions of Oregon's forests, protecting forestlands, and conserving forest resources. These actions are taken within the limitations of authority granted by legislative action and is limited by budget appropriations.

The Department has engaged in the following investments, activities, program advances or projects under the themes provided by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) from July 1, 2009, through September 30, 2010:

### 1. Conservation Investments or Technical Assistance:

- ODF successfully competed for three federal grants focused on work of benefit to salmon and watersheds:
  - Design of a collaborative forest landowner education strategy;
  - Development of a consistent forest management plan template to assist landowners in accessing federal assistance programs; and
  - Outreach and assistance to landowners to promote watershed restoration work in both urban and rural forestlands.
- ODF Stewardship Foresters:
  - Engaged in watershed council meetings for over 240 hours;
  - Spent 900 hours assisting private landowners in forest road design, improvements, surveys, and culvert replacements, riparian & streambank protection, invasive species control, and wildlife habitat enhancement/restoration;
  - Dedicated 770 hours in preparation, revision and approval of family forestland management plans; and
  - Enrolled 1171 acres to date of underproductive lands for reforestation under the Forest Resource Trust Program.

- ODF Urban Foresters:
  - Provided technical assistance to cities to help promote the management of urban trees as for riparian health and stormwater mitigation
  - Organized a low-impact-development workshop on the North Coast to help cities understand their options to lessen the impact of development on riparian areas

## **2. Clean Water and Streamflow:**

- ODF state forests implements riparian protection strategies, in part, to maintain cool stream temperatures. Recent research by the Oregon Department of Forestry demonstrates State Forest's riparian strategies meet Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) water quality standards on small and medium fish bearing streams.
- As part of this same research, ODF seeks to better understand the linkages between alteration of riparian vegetation and stream temperature response under different Forest Practices Act riparian regulations.

(Visit the Riparian Function and Stream Temperature Study website at:  
<http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/privateforests/MonitoringRipStream.shtml>)

## **3. Fish and Wildlife Habitat:**

- ODF has followed through on commitments in the Oregon Coast Coho Conservation Plan including implementing State Forest Management Plans with updates including a Species of Concern Strategy for fish. State Forests has also collaborated on several fish passage improvement and instream habitat restoration projects throughout state forest watersheds.
- The Board of Forestry approved a version of the updated Oregon Plan voluntary measures for private forest landowners due for release in early 2011. This includes the use of the High Aquatic Potential (HAP) concept for prioritizing streams for restoration work.
- Several state, federal, and private organizations are collaborating in state of the art, watershed-based research in three watersheds in Oregon to examine the effects of forest management on small non-fish streams as well as the potential downstream response. Known as the Watersheds Research Cooperative, this work encompasses studies in the Hinkle, Alsea, and Trask watersheds funded by a range of state, federal, private, and local county grants. More information on these projects can be found at:  
<http://watershedsresearch.org/>

- The Private Forests Division entered into a Safe Harbor Agreement for the Northern Spotted Owl with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. The Safe Harbor Agreement provides landowners with regulatory assurances in exchange for land management practices that are likely to provide a net conservation benefit for northern spotted owls. In addition, landowners may gain access to financial assistance for their conservation efforts. More information can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/Species/Data/NorthernSpottedOwl/>

#### 4. Regulation/Enforcement:

- ODF recognized three forest operators for their commendable work involving thinning for biomass and forest health, wood placement in streams, and community outreach and input on an urban harvest activity.
- ODF staff collaborated with Association of Oregon Loggers (AOL) to conduct statewide training sessions on chemical spill reporting and preparedness and basic forest practice rules.
- ODF field personnel (For the period 7/1/2010 – 9/30/2010\*):
  - Administered over 1900 harvest operations within 300 feet of a lake, stream or significant wetland.
  - Reviewed 270 harvest operations for potential conflict with important resource sites such as threatened and endangered species.
  - Assessed over 30 sites with high landslide hazard potential.

(\*The upgraded Forest Activity Tracking System – (FACTS) is limited to notification data from calendar year 2010 forward)

We continue to seek new opportunities to align our Department's policy and actions with those of the Oregon Plan despite the challenges of dire budget conditions. Please contact Marganne Allen, Field Support Manager, Private Forests, at 503-945-7240 or [mallen@odf.state.or.us](mailto:mallen@odf.state.or.us) if you have any questions with this report.

Sincerely,



Peter Daugherty  
Acting Director  
Private Forests Program