FOREST OPERATORS!!
YOU NEED TO "NOTIFY" TWO AGENCIES WHEN USING WATER FROM STREAMS FOR MIXING PESTICIDES AND SLASH BURNING

It's now easier than ever to legally draw water from forest streams for these forest management activities:

Mixing Pesticides & Slash Burning

All you need to do is send the local offices of two agencies, the Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD) and Fish and Wildlife Department (ODFW), copies of the original notification you prepared for the Department of Forestry (ODF). Notification copies do not go to these agencies automatically; you must send them yourself. Addresses of local WRD and ODFW offices are available in the ODF office where you file your notification. If after fifteen days, WRD or ODFW have not informed you of water use restrictions, you may use the water and be in full compliance with this water law. Waivers of the fifteen-day waiting period by ODF do not apply to water law requirements so it's best to send WRD and ODFW a copy of your notification at the same time you notify ODF. That way the fifteen-day waiting periods will end on the same day.

For these two specific water uses there is no annual fee, nor is there an annual limit on the time period of the use. However, you must identify the type of water use and the source on the notification form. These entries are described in ODF's notification instruction sheet.

Water use law also provides for unrestricted use of stream water for emergency fire-fighting. In addition, widening and deepening a stream channel to create a small “pump chance” does not require a water right, but must comply with Forest Practice rules for practices in and around streams.

For other uses of water, some form of contact with WRD is necessary. All water sources in the state belong to the public by law. WRD manages water use to ensure beneficial water uses consistent with the public interest.

The newly expedited process retains protection for streamflows by making these uses of water subject to restrictions on water use. This process reduces procedural requirements while retaining adequate control of water use. The 1995 Legislature made these uses of water more easily available.