

Board of Forestry Testimony
Nov 5th, 2015

Good morning Chair Imeson, Members of the Board and State Forester Decker.

My name is Mike Barnes and I serve as the Chair of the Northwest Regional Forest Practices Committee. This Board requested that the Northwest and Southwest Forest Practices Committees review the findings of the RipStream study and present recommendations to the Board of Forestry for their consideration in addressing potential changes to the riparian rules.

The committees met jointly over several months. We reviewed the RipStream study criteria, the results of the study, the model developed by ODF to evaluate the results and other data pertaining to the potential changes to the riparian rules.

The committees looked at each of the RipStream harvest sites in great detail. We examined what characteristics were present on streams that met the cold-water standard and those that exceeded the cold-water standard. We determined that a practical review combined with the data developed with the ODF model could best inform our recommendations to the Board. We confined our recommendations to those streams identified by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as streams containing Salmon, Steelhead and Bull Trout consistent with the Protecting Cold Water standard.

The recommendations presented to the Board of Forestry by our committees at the June meeting were the result of the combined effort of professionals with extensive field experience and citizens who have interest in effective and practical forest practice rules.

In previous presentations to the Board, we emphasized that the majority of harvest sites met the cold water standard. Those that exceeded exhibited specific characteristics that the committees addressed in selecting corrective measures. Any changes to the riparian rules should be consistent with the severity of the findings.

Our committees stand ready to assist the Board of Forestry and the Department of Forestry as this process moves forward. We trust that process will be addressing reasonable changes.