State of Oregon
Department of Forestry
Department of Environmental Quality
Memorandum

To: Environmental Quality Commission
From: Neil Mullane, DEQ Water Quality Division Administrator, and Peter Daugherty, ODF Acting Private Forests Division Chief
Subject: Status of Memorandum of Agreement between Departments of Environmental Quality and Forestry for meeting water goals and objectives

Date: May 27, 2011

One of the tasks assigned by the EQC to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as part of the Human Health Toxics Rulemaking Package was to update the department’s Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). The updated MOA would reflect our current working relationship and understanding of state statute and federal law for meeting water goals and objectives. DEQ and ODF began working on revising the MOA in fall 2010 with the expectation of having a signed MOA by mid June, 2011.

Originally we had anticipated that the MOA would be updated by mid June 2011. The work on the MOA has been delayed because of the coordination needed between the two agencies and their stakeholder groups. The delay will also allow us to address any changes to state statute during the 2011 legislative session.

DEQ and ODF have been working cooperatively on several projects and currently have an excellent working relationship. ODF and DEQ expressed its commitment to improve on existing partnerships, and we will propose language that would clarify respective agency roles and mutual goals to facilitate interagency coordination in the draft MOA.

We recommend revising the current timeline for updating the MOA to have a final draft by September 30, 2011, and have the MOA signed by November 30, 2011.

We would be happy to discuss this issue with you in more detail.
Neil Mullane, Water Quality Division Administrator, Department of Environmental Quality

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Peter Daugherty, Acting Private Forests Division Chief, Department of Forestry